

4



Kashimashi

~Girl Meets Girl~

story by
Satoru Akahori

art by
Yukimaru Katsura



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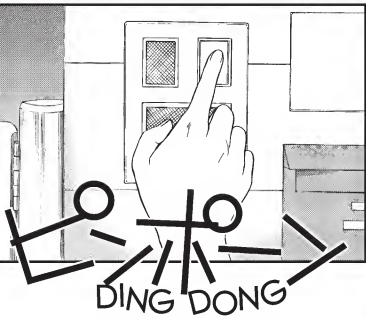
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Scenario: Satoru Akahori Comic: Yukimaru Katsura
Original Character Design: Sukune Inugami
School Uniform Design: COSPA inc.



#22 Beautiful



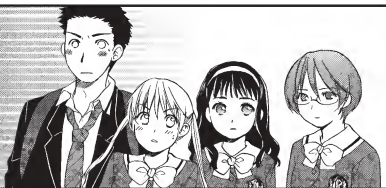


**MORNIN',
EVERYONE!**

#22 Beautiful

I'VE
BEEN
WAITING
FOREVER
FOR YOU
GUYS!

WOW,
YOU'RE
ALL
REALLY
LATE
TODAY!



JUST...
DON'T
GO OFF
WITHOUT
TELLING
US
AGAIN,
'KAY?



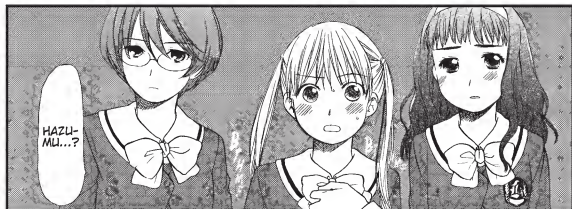
WHY
DON'T
WE ALL
GO TO-
GETHER
NEXT
TIME?



UH... NO
BIGGIE...



I'll carry
that.
Huh?





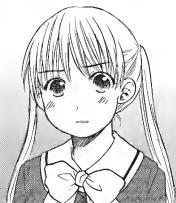
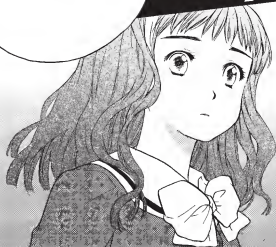
SO
MANY
THINGS
I WANT
TO DO...

THERE'S
SO MANY
PLACES
I WANT
TO SEE...

HEE
HEE
HEE...

FALL JUST
ENDS TOO
SOON!

BA-THUMP



YASUNA-
CHAN!



YES?



OOH!
THAT'S A
WONDER-
FUL IDEA!

UM...
I WAS KINDA
THINKING ABOUT
EATING LUNCH
UP ON THE
ROOF TODAY...

WHAT
IS IT?





HERE.
I MADE
SOME
COOKIES.



SURE!
YOU'LL
TEACH ME?

SINCE
YOU'VE
MASTERED
COOKIES,
LET'S TRY
BAKING A
CAKE NEXT!

SMILE

SEM-
PAI~!!

BE
THERE
IN A
SEC!

OH!

Be back
in a
minute!

Have
fun!

I'll
hold
that

SORRY, GUYS.
I PROMISED I'D
TEACH ONE OF
MY GARDENING
CLUB KOUHAI
HOW TO TAKE
CARE OF ALL
THE PLANTS
TODAY.

PLOP...

YEP.
IT'S EASY,
THOUGH.
JUST
GOTTA GET
INTO A
ROUTINE.

NO WAY,
YOU CAN'T
BE SERIOUS!
I HAVE TO
DO ALL OF
THAT BY
MYSELF?!

THERE WON'T
BE ANYONE
ELSE AROUND
TO TAKE CARE
OF ALL OF
THEM, ONCE
I GO. SO IT'S
UP TO YOU,
'KAY?

KLATIA

I'M
FINE!

ARE
YOU
SURE?

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT,
TOMARI-
CHAN?

HM?

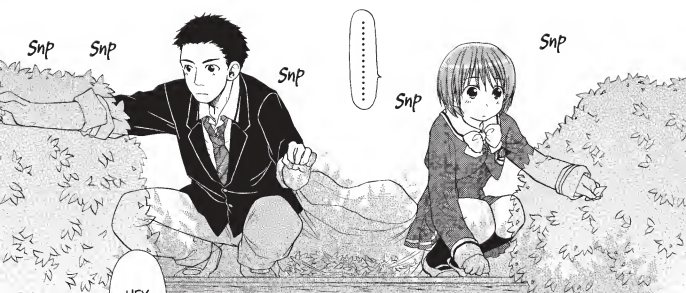
OH...
UH,
OKAY.

IT'S
N-NO...
NOTHING.
I JUST
DROPPED
MY BENTO
BOX,
THAT'S
ALL.

HFE

HFE





HEY, ASUTA?



YOU'RE ACTING
REALLY WEIRD
TODAY. ARE
YOU OKAY?



YOU
THINK
I'M
ACTING
WEIRD?

WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?!
HOW
CAN
YOU
BE
SO...

DIDN'T
GET
ENOUGH
SLEEP
LAST
NIGHT?

YOUR
EYES
LOOK
AWFULLY
RED.

OH...

BLUSH
かあ

Talk
about
rude!

WHERE
DID
THAT
COME
FROM
?!

You're
always
nice...
but...
uh...

UM...
IT'S JUST
YOU'RE...
YOU KNOW...
ACTING
ALL SUPER
NICE AND
STUFF...

Since this
morning...

IF
THERE'S
ANYTHING
YOU NEED
TO TALK
ABOUT, CALL
ME! EVEN IN
THE MIDDLE OF
THE NIGHT, I
DON'T CARE!!
CALL!!

IF YOU
CAN'T SAY
IT OVER
THE PHONE,
JUST SAY
SO!

I'LL DROP
EVERYTHING
AND COME
OVER, OKAY?!

CALL ME
WHENEVER
YOU NEED
ME!

ARGH!
LOOK! IF
THERE'S
ANYTHING
YOU'RE
HAVING A
PROBLEM
WITH, TELL
ME!

HAZU-
MU!!

C'mon
Asuta...
You're
embarrass-
ing me...

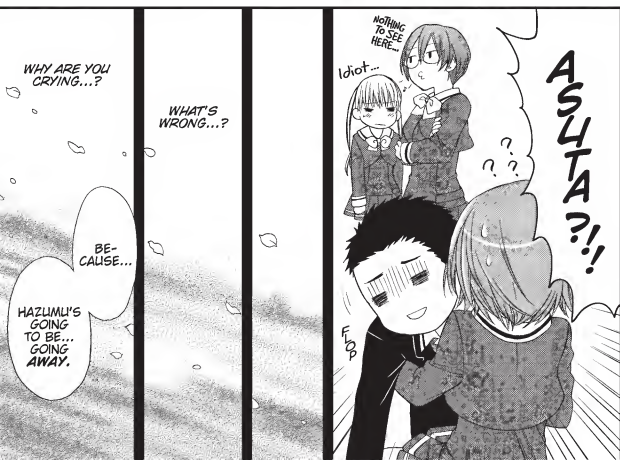
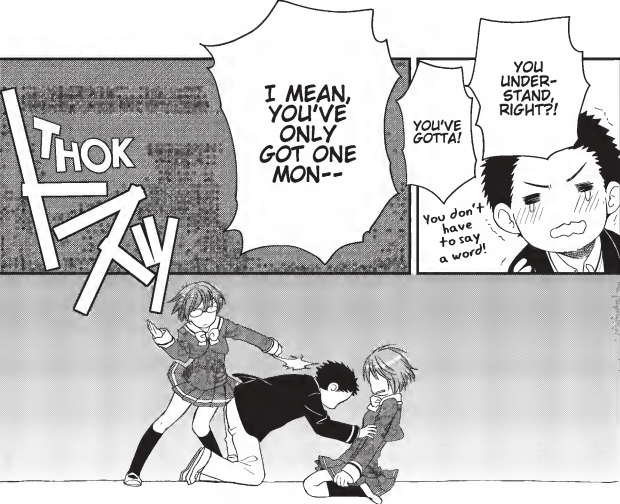
UUMMM...
W-WHERE
DID THIS
COME
FROM...?

ehh
heh
heh

WHENEVER
GOT THAT?!
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT
BOTHERING
ME! YOU'RE
NEVER A
BOTHER!
JUST CALL
ME!!

I
MEAN
IT!

IT'S
WHAT BEST
FRIENDS DO
AND I'M STILL
YOUR BEST
FRIEND!!



OH...?

NOW THEY
SAY SHE'S
ONLY GOT A
MONTH LEFT
TO LIVE...

FIRST,
THEY
TURNED
HIM INTO
A GIRL...

DON'T
BE SILLY,
I'M RIGHT
HERE.

FOREVER
AND
EVER.

I'M GOING
TO STAY BY
YOUR SIDE
ALWAYS.

I'M NOT
GOING
TO DIE,
EITHER.

I'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN A
GIRL.

NOW
THAT'S
WHAT I
CALL
HAPPINESS.

WOW...

HA
HA...



DARLING...♡



HAZU-
MU...

TSK
TSK
TSK...

YOU CAN
CALL ME
"DEAR,"
REMEM-
BER...?



WHAHA!?



STUPID,
PERVY
ME!!

BOP
BOP

ARGH!!

BOP

ASU-
TA...?



A... A DREAM...?
YEAH, JUST... JUST A DREAM.

HA HA, I MEAN, THERE'S
NO WAY HAZUMU WOULD
EVER HOLD MY HEAD ON
HER LAP, RIGHT?

DAMMIT, THAT MEANS
MY PERVY SIDE GOT
THE BETTER OF ME
AGAIN!!

WHEW

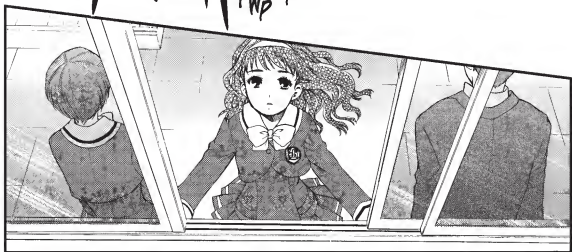
WHEW



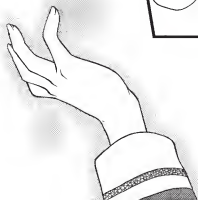


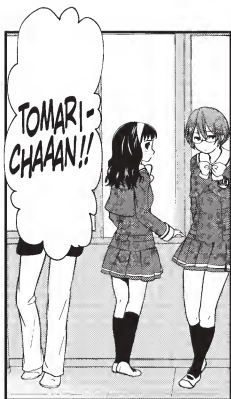
NO. I CAN'T.





I WANT...





TOMARI-
CHAAAAN!!

YOU'RE
COMING
TOO,
RIGHT?

HEY, LISTEN!
YASUNA-CHAN
AND I WERE
TALKING ABOUT
HANGING OUT
AFTER CLASS
TODAY!

PLEASE?



WAVE
WAVE

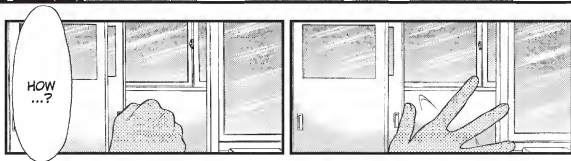
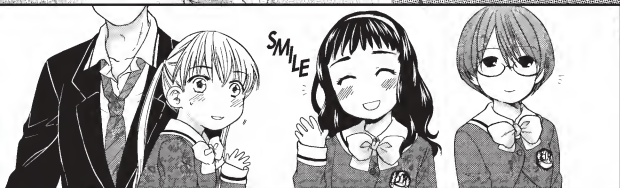
SMILE

I WANT
TO BE
TOGETHER
WITH YOU...
FOREVER...



JOINED
TOGETHER
LIKE
THE JIAN
BIRD...



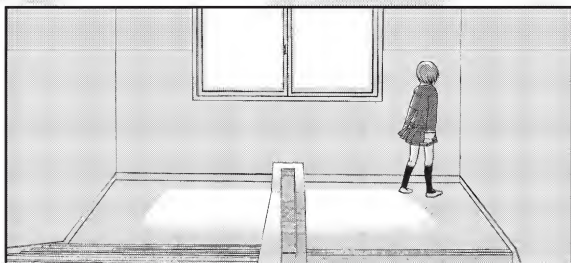




PERHAPS
HAZUMI-
KUN HAS
ALREADY...



HOW CAN
SHE SMILE SO
BEAUTIFULLY
AT A TIME
LIKE THIS...?





IF
THAT IS
TRUE...

IT JUST
MAKES
THIS ALL
THE
HARDER.



...PREPARED
HERSELF FOR
WHAT IS GOING
TO HAPPEN IN
ONE SHORT
MONTH.



IT'S
BEEN
SUCH A
PERFECT
DAY.

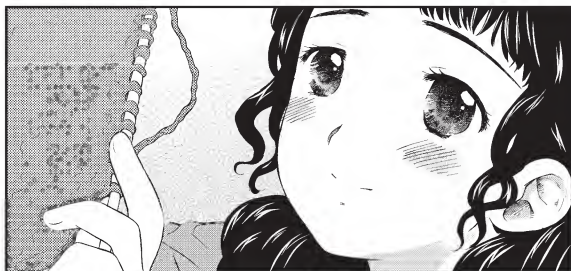
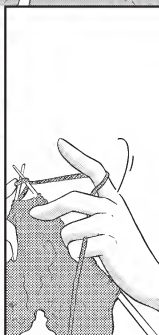
EVERYONE
IS HERE...

I'M SO
HAPPY...

BUT...

DRAT!
WHENEVER
I'M AROUND
EVERYONE,
I FEEL LIKE
I WANNA
CRY...

AND...
I'M STILL
HERE...





#23 Concert





DINNER IS
READY, BUT
IF YOU ARE
GOING TO BE
LIKE THIS,
WE'LL EAT
WITHOUT
YOU!



WHEN YOU
COME HOME,
I EXPECT TO
HEAR AT LEAST
"I'M HOME"
FROM YOU
BEFORE YOU...

WHAT?

SLEEPING
ALREADY?



TOMARI!!





IT'S
OKAY.
I DON'T
MIND.

THE LIGHT
GLINTING OFF
THE BEADS I
COLLECTED AS
A CHILD.

THE WORLD
LOOKS
EVEN MORE
BEAUTIFUL
TO ME.

BUT
NOW THAT
YOU'VE
TOLD ME...

TO TELL
YOU THE
TRUTH,
I AM STILL
AFRAID...

THE
PUFFY,
SUMMER
CLOUDS I
TRIED TO
GRAB.

I FEEL LIKE
I'M A KID
AGAIN. EACH
DAY FEELS
SO LONG.

THE AFTER-
NOON SUN
SITTING
JUST ABOVE
THE POWER
LINES.

I'LL BE
ABLE TO
BURN IT
ALL INTO
MY MEMORY
BEFORE
I... UH...
GO.

I'M
SURE...

SO...
IT'S OKAY.

ALL
THE PEOPLE
IMPORTANT
TO ME...

THE COLOR
OF RAIN
PUDDLES ON
THE STONES
IN THE BACK
ALLEY.

REALLY GLAD...
THAT EVERY-
THING WON'T...
END BEFORE
I KNOW IT.

ACTUALLY...
I'M GLAD...

Oh
yeah!
I'M
MAKING A
PLAN TO
TAKE EVERY-
ONE GRAPE
PICKING!

WANNA
COME?

CER-
TAINLY.

PUI!♡

YOU
CHOOSE
TO ACCEPT
THE PART-
ING THAT
FATE HAS
DECREED
FOR YOU...
HN...

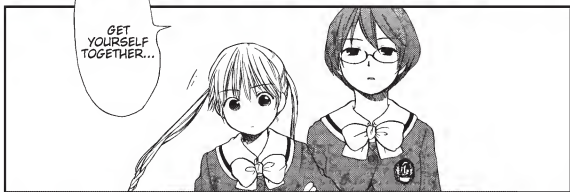
YOU...

MEETINGS
AND PART-
INGS ARE
QUITE IM-
PORTANT.

AS A SOURCE
OF EMOT-
ION...



GET
YOURSELF
TOGETHER...



SON-Z-Z!!



When
can
you go?
Is the
week-
end
good?

Grape
picking?

OH!
WHAT'CHA
DOING,
YASUNA-
CHAN?

ER... UM...
GOOD
MORNING!

EEP!

Oh my!
Is it
already
that
late?!

AH...
OH...
THIS?
UMM...

A
SCARF?

MY FIRST
SWEATER

YOU CAN
HAVE IT...
OKAY?

IF IT
TURNS
OUT
WELL...

SO...
AH...

YES.

I'VE
NEVER
DONE
ANYTHING
LIKE THIS
BEFORE,
SO...

I'M STILL
LEARNING.

Neat!

THIS
IS YOUR
FIRST
TIME?
REALLY?

OH WOW!
THANKS,
YASUNA-
CHAN! I'D
LOVE IT!

HEE
HEE

HUH...?

REALLY?
I CAN?!





**CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**





ME?

HUH?



I MEAN...
YOU'RE
LEAGUES
BETTER THAN
ANYONE ELSE
HERE, AND WE
ALL LOVE TO
HEAR YOU
PLAY.

WE'D LOVE
IT IF YOU
COULD DO
A SOLO.

YEAH. IT'S
FOR THE
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT.

THANK
YOU!

MY.

REALLY
...?



?



OF
COURSE
I WILL!



YES.
YES,
I DID.

WHAT
MADE YOU
CHANGE?
DID YOU FIND
SOMEBODY
YOU LIKE?

HM...?

I, UM,
KNOW
THIS IS
RUDE TO
SAY OUT
LOUD,
BUT...

YOU'VE
CHANGED
A LOT,
KAMIIZU-
MI-SAN.

BEFORE,
WE'D
NEVER
EVEN
THINK OF
ASKING
YOU FOR
ANY-
THING.

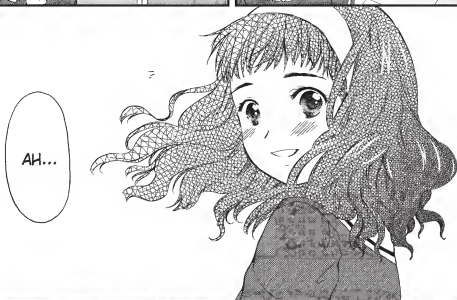
YOU
WERE
JUST,
WELL,
HARD
TO AP-
PROACH.



BUT
WE'RE
ALL
REALLY
CURI-
OUS...

OH, NO, NO!
DON'T FEEL
BAD ABOUT IT!
IT'S GREAT
THAT WE CAN
TALK TO YOU
NOW!

OH...
I'M
SORRY.





WOULD
YOU
LIKE TO
HEAR
ME
PLAY?



REALLY?
THAT'S SO
COOL!!
CONGRATS,
YASUNA-
CHAN!

SAY...

HAZU-
MU-
KUN?

A
SOLO?



IT GAVE
ME TIME
FOR SOME
EXTRA
PRACTICE.

THAT'S
ALL
RIGHT.



I'VE BEEN
ASKED TO
DO A SOLO
DURING THIS
YEAR'S
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT.



AHH...





IT WAS
HERE...

WHILE
LISTENING
TO THESE
BEAUTIFUL,
EXPRESSIVE
SOUNDS...

THAT I
FIRST FELL
IN LOVE.

YASUNA-
CHAN...





WHY,
THANK
YOU.

BOW

I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
BEAUTI-
FUL!

THAT WAS
WONDER-
FUL, YASU-
NA-CHAN!

1/0
7
1/0 7 CLAP
1/0 7 CLAP
7 CLAP

I TOTALLY
UNDER-
STAND WHY
MY PLANTS
LOVE IT!

YOUR
FLUTE
PLAYING
IS ALWAYS
SO... SO...
I DON'T
KNOW...

INVIGO-
RATING.
IT GIVES
YOUR
LISTENERS
STRENGTH.

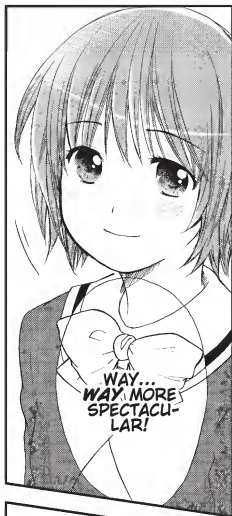
YOU GIVE
ME TOO
MUCH
CREDIT.

ALL THE ONES IN
THE BED FACING
THE MUSIC ROOM
WINDOW HEAR YOUR
MUSIC ALL THE TIME!
THEY'RE GROWING
SO QUICKLY, I'M
STARTING TO HAVE
TO CUT THEM BACK!

YOUR
MUSIC IS
MAGICAL!

AND....
AH... TO ME,
AT LEAST... IT
FEELS A LOT
WARMER
THAN IT
USED TO.

NO,
I DON'T
GIVE YOU
ENOUGH!



WAY...
WAY MORE
SPECTACU-
LAR!



YOUR
SOUND
HAS
GOTTEN
WAY
MORE...
SPECTAC-
ULAR...
RECENTLY.

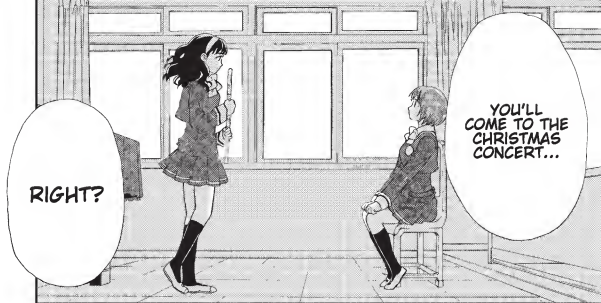


I PROMISE
I'LL PRACTICE
MORE, SO
I CAN GET
EVEN
BETTER.

YOUR
COMPLIMENTS
ALWAYS MAKE
ME FEEL
WONDERFUL.

THANK
YOU.







YOU'LL
BE ABLE
TO COME.
I KNOW
YOU WILL.

I...
BELIEVE
IN HER.

DON'T
WORRY.

UHH...

YES,
I BELIEVE.

AND
I'LL
CARRY
HER...

SQUEEZE

TO THE
FAR SIDE
OF FATE
AND
BEYOND...

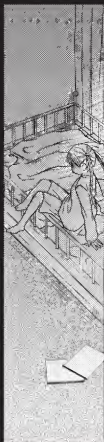
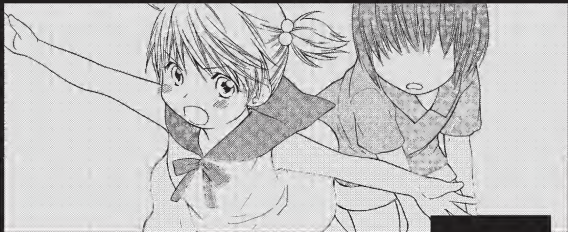
ON MY
OWN TWO
WINGS.



#24 False Strength



I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE ONE TO PROTECT HAZUMU.



*I'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN THE
ONE BY
HIS SIDE.*



*AND I
ALWAYS
WILL BE.*





*I WILL
PROTECT
HAZUMU...*

*I WILL
PROTECT
HAZUMU!!*

IT'LL BE OKAY. I CAN MANAGE. I'M STRONG.



I. AM. STRONG!!



SO...
UH...
YEAH...

MORN-
ING....!

MORNIN',
HAZUMI!

AHA!
YOU
DIDN'T!

UH? ER...
HOME-
WORK...?

OH,
TOMARI-
CHAN?
DID YOU
DO LAST
NIGHT'S
HOME-
WORK?

WELL,
I DID
IT...

HEY!!
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN BY
THAT?!

OH
GOD...
EVEN
ASUTA
DID...

SEE?
EVEN
ASUTA
DID IT!



Um, can I take a look at yours?

.....

Hmm... Maybe or maybe not. Hee hee!

AH, I ALMOST FORGOT!

DO YOU KNOW WHICH DAYS YOU HAVE TRACK PRACTICE YET?

HN?

AW, MAN! WELL, TELL ME THE MINUTE YOU KNOW, OKAY?

HMM... I DUNNO. REGIONALS ARE GETTING CLOSE...

THERE ISN'T ALL THAT MUCH TIME LEFT...

And I've asked you how many times now?!

OH YEAH. SORRY, I TOTALLY SPACED ON THAT.

I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH DAY WE'RE GOING TO GO GRAPE PICKING! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO HASN'T TOLD ME THEIR SCHEDULE YET!



OH, I CAN'T WAIT!

IF WE DON'T GO SOON, ALL THE VINEYARDS WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE SEASON!



HAZ--



I WANT TO GO AND WATCH YOU AT THE REGIONALS TOO.

I'LL EVEN BRING A BENTO!



GOOD! I'LL BE WAITING.

O-OH... OKAY... I WILL.

My,
that
was
quick!

I started
knitting
my
first
scarf
last
night!

GOOD
MORN-
ING.

MORNIN',
YASUNA-
CHAN!

Aha
ha
ha!

When Mom saw
it, she got so
happy I almost
thought she'd
burst!

HERE,
I'LL PUT
SOME
CONCEAL-
ER ON
YOU.

TRY TO REMEM-
BER TO
COVER UP
THE
BAGS
UNDER
YOUR
EYES.

UWAH
?!!

UH?!

UNF...



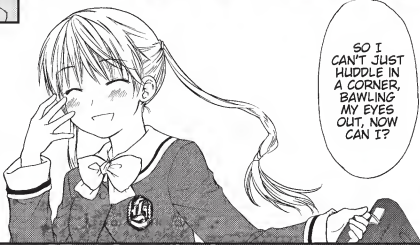
I MEAN,
YASUNA
LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S
COMPLETELY
OVER IT
ALREADY...



SORRY
TO MAKE
YOU
WORRY.

THANKS...

IT'S
OKAY
NOW.
I'LL BE
FINE.



HOW DO
I LOOK?
ARE THEY
HIDDEN?

SO I
CAN'T JUST
HUDDLE IN
A CORNER,
BAWLING
MY EYES
OUT, NOW
CAN I?



SHE'S
TAKEN
A STEP
FORWARD.

YASUNA
IS...
DIFFERENT.



BUT
YOU...

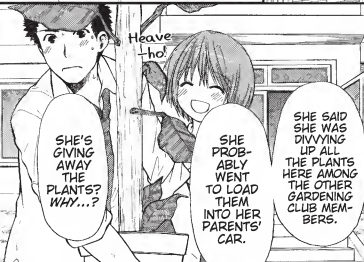


SHE SAID
SHE WAS
GOING TO THE
PARKING
LOT.

HMM? HEY,
WHERE'S
HAZUMU?

THE
PARKING
LOT?!
WHAT THE
HECK IS
SHE DOING
THERE?!

BING
BONG
BEENG
BONG

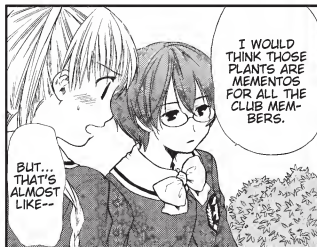


Heave
-ho!

SHE'S
GIVING
AWAY
THE
PLANTS?
WHY...?

SHE
PROBABLY
WENT
TO LOAD
THEM
INTO HER
PARENTS'
CAR.

SHE SAID
SHE WAS
DIVVING
UP ALL
THE PLANTS
HERE AMONG
THE OTHER
GARDENING
CLUB MEM-
BERS.



BUT...
THAT'S
ALMOST
LIKE--

I WOULD
THINK THOSE
PLANTS ARE
MEMENTOS
FOR ALL THE
CLUB MEM-
BERS.



YOU'VE
STUMBLED
ALL THE
WAY BACK
TO THE
BEGINNING,
HAVEN'T
YOU?



SHE TOLD ME SHE'S DISCOVERED THAT SHE JUST LOVES MAKING THINGS FROM SCRAT--

OH, SHE ALSO TOOK UP KNITTING.

WHY...



OH, DID YOU TWO SEE HAZUMI'S BENTO?

They're past-rain beef on rice!

SHE MADE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TODAY!



she warned me ahead of time, so I packed nothing but side dishes.



OH, LOOK!



I'M NOT MAD OR ANYTHING. SORRY.

I... DIDN'T MEAN TO SHOUT.



S-SORRY...

WUM...





Time
to
eat!

WELL,
LET'S
SIT.

WHAT
...?

DECEM-
BER...?





I'LL EVEN BRING A BENTO!

HOW
CAN THEY
EXPECT
US TO
COMPETE
IN THE
COLD?

OUR
NEXT MEET
WILL BE IN
DECEMBER!

THE ALL-ASIA
TRIALS GOT
PUSHED BACK,
SO OUR RE-
GIONAL MEET
IS GETTING
DELAYED TOO.

CAN YOU
BELIEVE
THAT?

HEY, TOMARI-
CHAN! WHEN'S
YOUR REGIONAL
TRACK MEET?

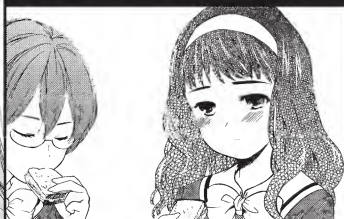
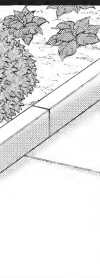
DECEMBER...

BUT
THAT'S...

**THAT'S
OVER A
MONTH
AWAY!!**

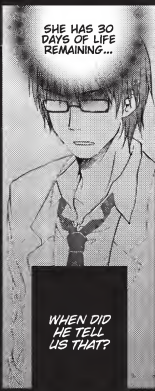
I WANNA
COME AND
WATCH!







HOW MANY
OF THOSE
30 DAYS
ARE LEFT?



SHE HAS 30
DAYS OF LIFE
REMAINING...



Hyaaa!

IN HOW
MANY
DAYS...

WHEN DID
HE TELL
US THAT?



WILL
HAZUMI...?



WHAT
AM I
THINK-
ING?!

HAZUMI'S
NOT GOING
TO DIE...



HUH?

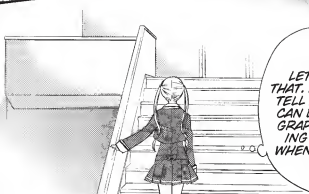
TOMARI-
CHAN WENT
TO TRACK
PRACTICE
ALREADY?

ARGH!
STUPID! STUPID,
STUPID,
STUPID!!

HAZUMU...

HAZUMU'S
NOT...

COME TO
THINK OF IT,
I HAVEN'T
WALKED
HOME WITH
HER IN
AGES.



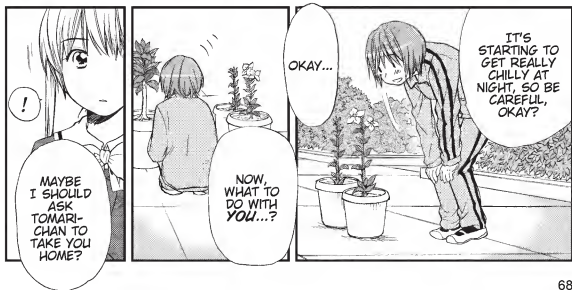
LET'S DO
THAT. AND I'LL
TELL HER WE
CAN DO THAT
GRAPE PICK-
ING THING
WHenever...



AND
THAT THE
REGIONALS
ARE...

.....







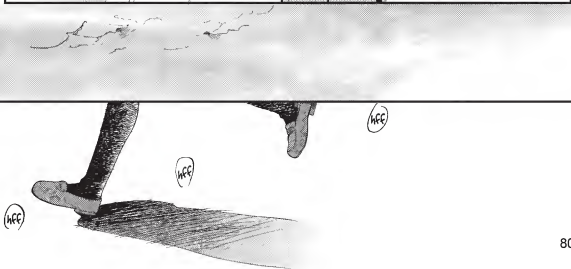
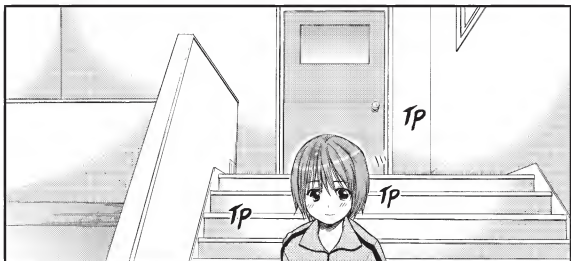
I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT
HER.

Y'SEE...



SO IT'S GOING
TO BE UP TO
YOU GUYS TO
LOOK AFTER
HER, OKAY?

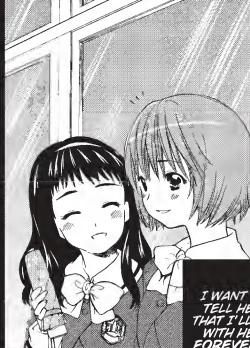
I'M NOT
GOING TO
BE AROUND
FOR MUCH
LONGER...





WHY...?

WHY...?!

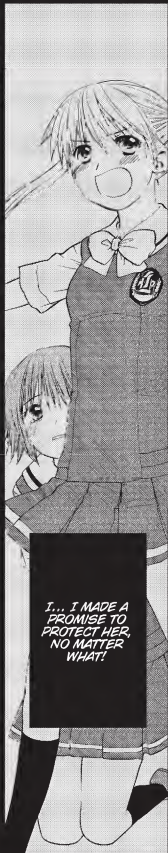


I WANT TO
TELL HER
THAT I'LL BE
WITH HER
FOREVER...
THAT
SHOULDN'T
BE HARD!

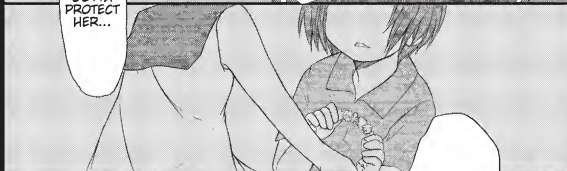
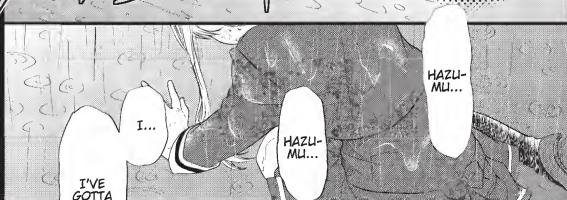


SO WHY
CAN'T I...?

I'M NOT
GOING TO
BE AROUND
FOR MUCH
LONGER...



I... I MADE A
PROMISE TO
PROTECT HER,
NO MATTER
WHAT!



**OH
GOD!!**

**I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT TO
DO ANY-
MORE!!**

UNNN...

ZOO...

**I JUST
DON'T
KNOW!!**

HAZUMU!!!





#25 Hazumu's Feelings



AH!
WELCOME!!

ガッガッ
SHOOP



I JUST HOPE THERE ISN'T SOME FLU BUG GOING AROUND.

Excuse me!

Excuse me!

YEAH. IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU...

YOUR UNIFORM IS CUTE!

Your uncle owns it, right?

YEAH.

IT'S JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, THOUGH. I'M FILLING IN FOR SOMEONE WHO'S SICK.

SO YOU DID GET A PART TIME JOB AT A KANJI KISSA.

WHO KNOWS?

Waitress! ♡

THERE COULD BE, I GUESS.

I MEAN, SHE'S BEEN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR TWO DAYS STRAIGHT NOW.

SHE COULDN'T EVEN COME TO SEE HAZUMI WITH US TODAY.

Yes?

Oh, waitress! ♡

Hmm. Maybe
I'll get some
awazenzai.

Hope she
doesn't
pass it on
to me...

I COULD
SEE THAT
HAPPENING
AFTER BEING
DRENCHED IN
THAT KIND OF
COLD AND
ALL.

STOP
COMING
EVERY
DAY!!!

IT WAS
PRETTY
COLD THAT
NIGHT TOO.
MAYBE SHE
DID CATCH
A COLD.

MOM!!
DAD!!

SHE DID GET
CAUGHT OUT IN
THAT MAJOR
DOWNPOUR THE
DAY BEFORE
YESTERDAY.

PLEASE, NO
PHOTOGRAPHS
INSIDE THE
RESTAURANT!



OH!
WELL,
THERE'S...

ANYWAY, I
CAN'T DECIDE
WHAT TO
ORDER. WHAT
DO YOU REC-
OMMEND?

ABOUT
NOTHING
AT ALL,
HAZUMU-
KUN.

OH, WE
WERE
JUST
TALKING
ABOUT
TO--

HM?





La
de da

La



YEAH. I'D...
I'D JUST LIKE
FOR EVERYONE
TO REMEMBER
ME.



HMM,
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

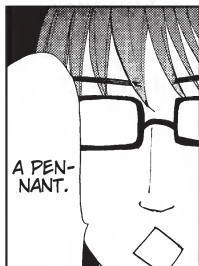
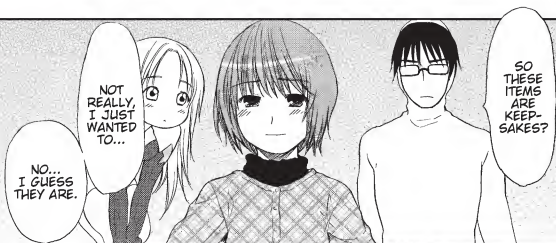
I THOUGHT
IT'D BE COOL
IF I GOT A
MEMENTO FOR
EVERYBODY.



Here's
my list
of ideas

I'M ADDING
UP MY
ALLOWANCE
AND THE
MONEY FROM
THE KANMI
KISSA TO SEE
HOW MUCH I
CAN SPEND.

MEMENTOS,
HM?



I'll be
back in
a blink,
darling!

TRUTH BE TOLD,
TSUKI-SENSEI
POSED A SIMILAR
QUESTION TO ME
NOT TOO LONG
AGO. I DECIDED
IT WAS A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY
TO DISCOVER
THE FEASIBILITY
OF THEIR
ACQUISITION.

REALLY...?
WOW! WHAT
PENNANT
DID YOU
ASK FOR?

THEY ARE
CURRENTLY
QUITE POPU-
LAR (WITH
ME ONLY)
RIGHT NOW.

PENNANTS
MAKE
THE BEST
SOUVENIRS!

Why, my room
(the closet) is
filled with
pennants!

Uh, you
mean my
room,
right?

WHA?!

Tokyo
Tower
would
do
nicely.

SHFL SHFL

I SWEAR ON MY
LOVE FOR YOU
THAT I WILL GET
THE PENNANT
FROM THE HUT ON
HOTAKA MOUNTAIN
FOR YOU!

AHH!
THEN,
ONCE I
PRESENT
IT TO
YOU...

SORA-
SENSEI!!!



NAMIKO!!

**YOU ARE
THE MOST
WONDERFUL
WOMAN I
HAVE EVER
MET!!**

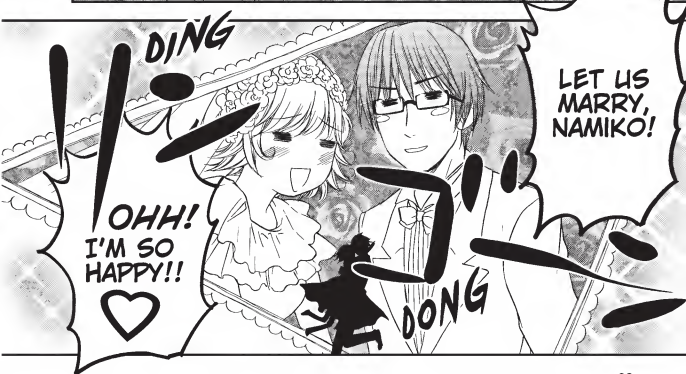
**I CANNOT
BELIEVE
YOU WENT
SO FAR
JUST FOR
MY SAKE!**



**HITOSHI-
SAN!**

**I WOULD DO
ANYTHING
FOR YOU!**

**ANYTHING! NO
REQUEST OF
YOURS IS TOO
GREAT!!**

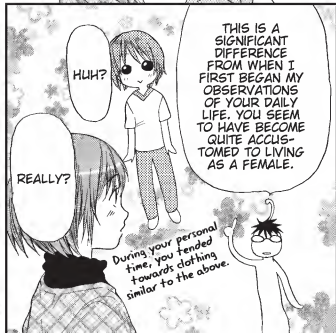


**LET US
MARRY,
NAMIKO!**

**OHH!
I'M SO
HAPPY!!**



DONG





WOULD YOU MIND
IF I WERE TO
CONDUCT A FEW
TINY EXPERIMENTS
TO SEE IF THERE
HAVE BEEN ANY
OTHER CHANGES?

I'VE
GOTTEN
TOTALLY
USED TO
THE IDEA
OF ME AS
A GIRL.

YES.
I MIND
VERY
MUCH...

OFF.
You're
heavy!

LEAN

Puuuu

GIRLS'
CLOTHES.
A GIRL'S
BODY.



THERE
AREN'T
ANY
CHANGES,
OKAY?!

HOW
"VERY
CERTAIN"?

VERY
CERTAIN.

ARE
YOU
CERTAIN?

THERE
HAVE NOT
BEEN ANY
CHANGES
IN ME!



OH
WOW...

OH
WOW!



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT,
DEAR.

WE WERE
VERY GLAD
FOR YOUR
HELP.

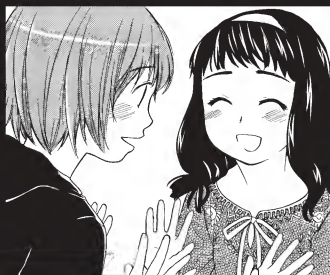
THANK
YOU SO
VERY
MUCH!!

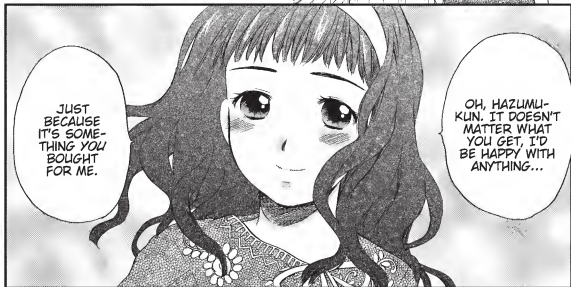
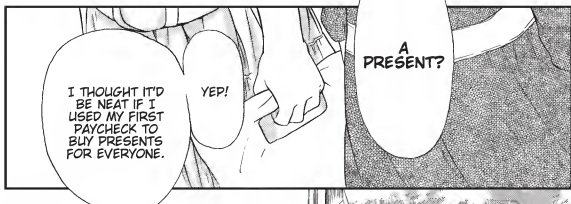
Bow

Bow



WHAT?!
THIS
MUCH...?
ARE YOU
SURE?

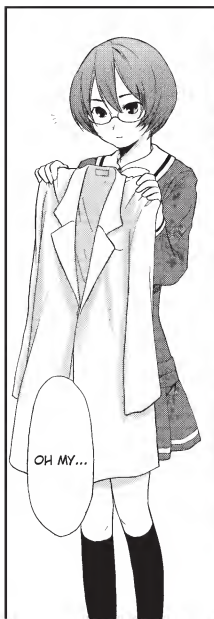








YASUNA-
CHAN...



OH MY...



YOU
BOUGHT
THIS?



FOR
ME?

HUH?



ALL
RIGHT.

EH EH
HEH

I WANTED TO
SPEND MY
PAYCHECK ON
EVERYONE. GO
AHEAD! OPEN
THEM!

They actually sell those things in stores?

REALLY?! GREAT! I'M SO GLAD YOU LIKE IT!

I WAS GOING TO BUY A NEW ONE TOO. THANK YOU.

IT'S PERFECT. I LOVE IT.

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU LOOK REALLY COOL WHEN YOU WEAR ONE.

Spots for all 5 toes.

NOT JUST ANY SOCKS! TOE-SOCKS!

YOU GOT ME SOCKS?

You think so? Yasuna-chan told me the same thing!

AYUKI-CHAN...

THANK YOU. YOU KNOW, IT'S VERY LIKE YOU TO SPEND YOUR HARD-EARNED MONEY ON OTHERS BEFORE YOURSELF.

WH-WHA...

ASUTA...

I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE JUST HOW NICE AND KIND AND WONDERFUL AND SPECIAL YOU ARE.

UH...

ASUTA...

STARE



SHE SAID
SHE WAS
COMING
TODAY,
RIGHT?

TOMARI-
CHAN.



H-HEY!!
CAN WE
CHANGE
THE
TOPIC?!

GOD,
PLEASE
LET HIM
FIND A GOOD
GIRLFRIEND
REALLY
SOON!

FIZZLE

Why,
doesn't
anyone
else
under-
stand?

Who
knows?

HEY!
NO
PRAY-
ING!!

urk



I'M HAPPY.
RIGHT NOW.
VERY HAPPY.



If
she'd
had
toe-
socks
like
yours,
Asuta,
she
would've
been fine!

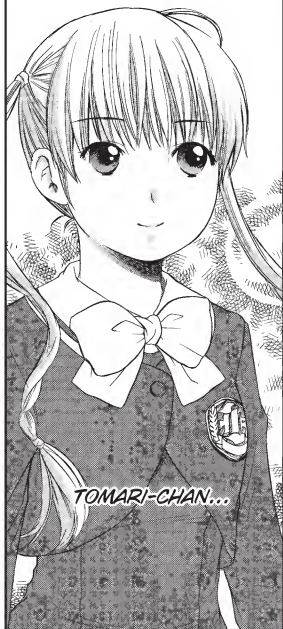
OH, I KNEW
THERE WAS A
BUG GOING
AROUND! POOR
TOMARI-CHAN!

I'M SURROUNDED
BY THE PEOPLE
I LOVE.

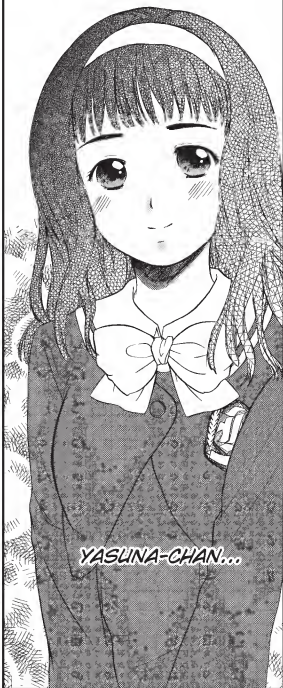
DID SHE?
IS SHE
OVER HER
COLD THEN?



AND THAT'S
ENOUGH.
I DON'T NEED
ANYTHING ELSE.

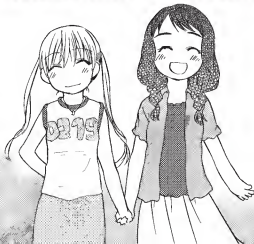


TOMARI-CHAN...



YASUNA-CHAN...

*YOU'VE JUST
STAYED BY MY
SIDE, ACCEPTING
ME AS I AM...
ACCEPTING THAT
I COULDN'T
MAKE A CHOICE.*



*SINCE THEN,
NEITHER OF
YOU HAS SAID
ANYTHING.*



ALL THE
WAY TO THE
VERY END.

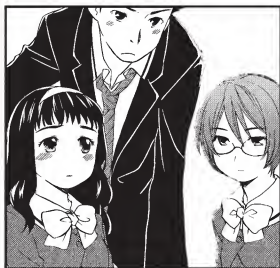
HM...?



I hope
she gets
here
soon!

la la la

SO... I WANT
EVERYTHING
TO STAY
THIS WAY...



I WANT TO
STAY WITH
EVERYONE...
TO KEEP
SMILING...



dee da

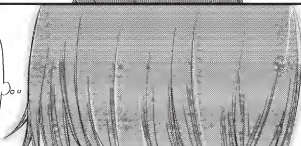
la la

CAN'T BE
LIKE THIS
WHEN
EVERYBODY'S
WATCHING.



WHOOOPS!
I GOTTA
STOP.

NOT
EVEN AT
THE END.



I'M NOT
GOING TO
CRY.



FOR US,
ANYWAY.

NO.
WATCHING
IS PRETTY
MUCH IT.



ISN'T THERE
SOMETHING
WE CAN,
YOU KNOW,
DO?

la
la

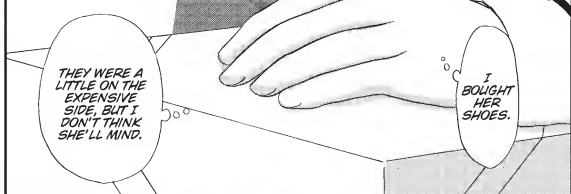


HOW LONG
DO WE
HAVE TO SIT
AND WATCH
HAZUMU BE
LIKE THIS...?

NOW
WHAT...?



TOMARI-
CHAN...



THEY WERE A
LITTLE ON THE
EXPENSIVE
SIDE, BUT I
DON'T THINK
SHE'LL MIND.

I
BOUGHT
HER
SHOES.



BESIDES, SHE
DESERVES
THEM. SHE'S
BEEN WITH ME
FOREVER.



I'VE
ALWAYS
LOVED
WATCHING
HER WHILE
SHE RUNS.



SHE
LOOKED SO
AWESOME
AT THE
SPORTS
FESTIVAL...



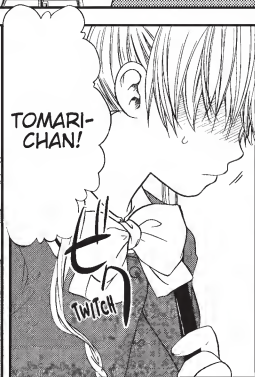
ACTUALLY,
IT'S MORE
LIKE I'VE
BEEN RELY-
ING ON HER
FOREVER...

aha
ha...
ahm...



I CAN'T
WAIT TO
SEE YOU AT
REGIONALS.

TOMARI-
CHAN...







**WHY
DO YOU
INSIST
ON DOING
THIS
CRAP?!**

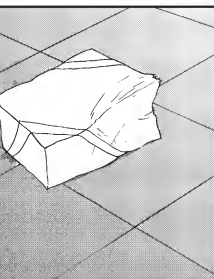
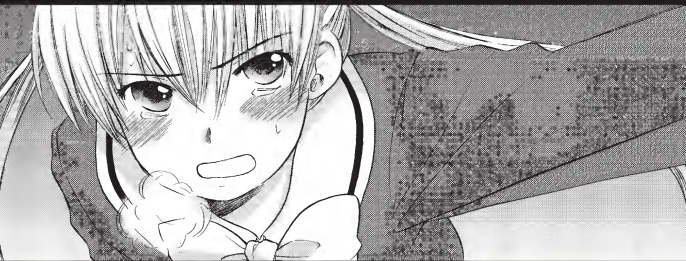


WHY?!





TOMARI-
CHAN...



#26 The Tortoise and the Hare



TOMARI-
CHAN...



SEE?!

GOOD
MORNING,
EVERY-
ONE!



YOUR
GORGEOUS
SENSEI
NAMIKO
HAS RE-
TURNED!!



TO YOUR
SEATS,
EVERYONE!

IT'S TIME
TO START
CLASS!



NOW, ALL
MY LOVELY
STUDENTS,
THE BELL HAS
RUNG, SO YOU
KNOW WHAT
THAT MEANS!



TOMARI-
CHAN,
LOOK!

TOMARI-
CHAN!

IT'S THE
TORTOISE!

I DON'T
LOSE!!

BUT I DON'T
FALL ASLEEP
IN THE MIDDLE
OF RACES!!

OKAY,
OKAY.

WAIT.

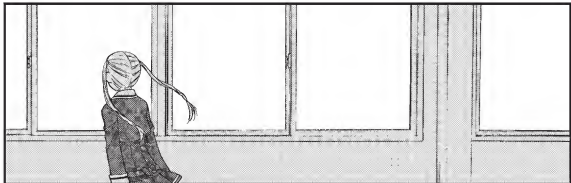
Ooh!
So
cute...

A
BUN-
NY...

BUT YOU
GET TO BE
THE HARE,
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
REALLY
FAST.

WHO DOESN'T
FALL ASLEEP
IN THE RACE.

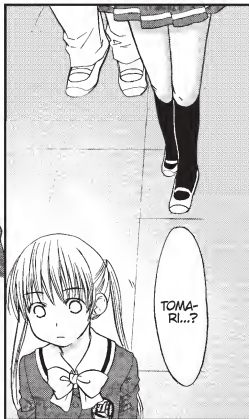
YOU CAN
BE A
HARE...



YES.

HER
PARENTS
AND BOTH
OF THE
ALIENS AS
WELL.

WE
BOTH
DID.



TOMA-
RI...?



BUT
WHY...?

HOW
CAN SHE
DO THIS
TO US...?



SHE'S
DOING IT
FOR HER-
SELF,
TOMARI.



DID SHE
THINK WE'D
ACTUALLY
BE HAPPY
ABOUT IT?!

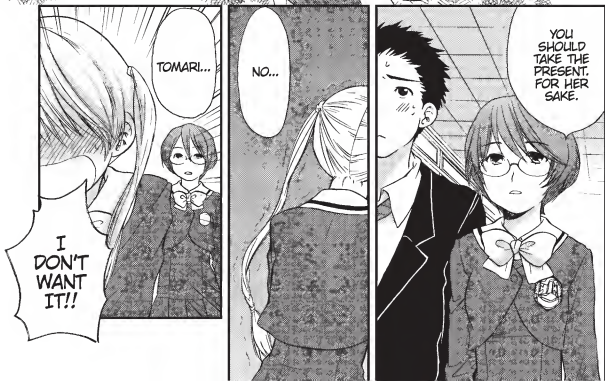


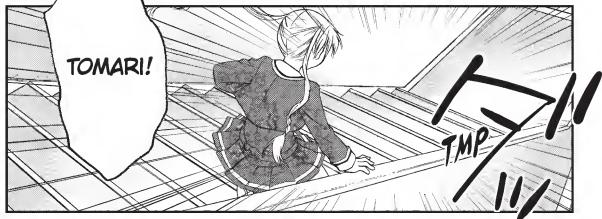
FROM
HAZU-
MU, I
MEAN.

DID YOU
GET
SOME-
THING
TOO?

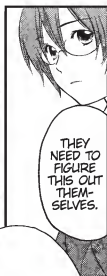
DID...

AYUKI...



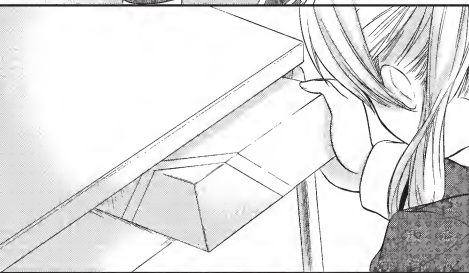
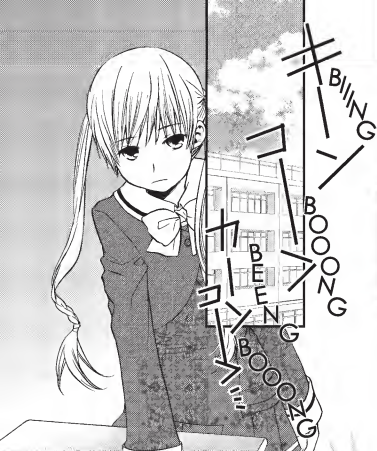


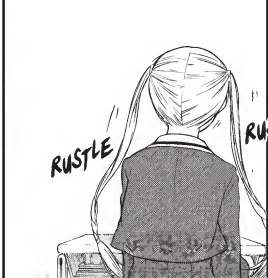
THERE
WERE NO
SECRETS
OR LIES
BETWEEN
THE TWO OF
THEM UNTIL
NOW.



THEY
NEED TO
FIGURE
THIS OUT
THEM-
SELVES.







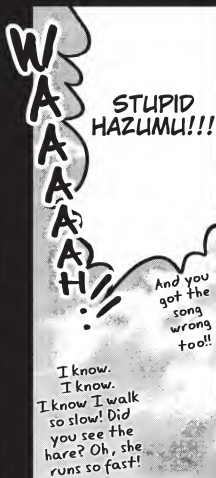




IF I
WAS THE
TORTOISE,
THAT'S
WHAT I'D
DO.

Mr. Tortoise!
Mr. Tortoise!
Oh, you walk
so sloooow!

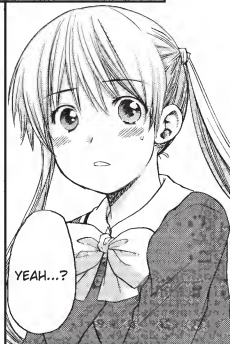
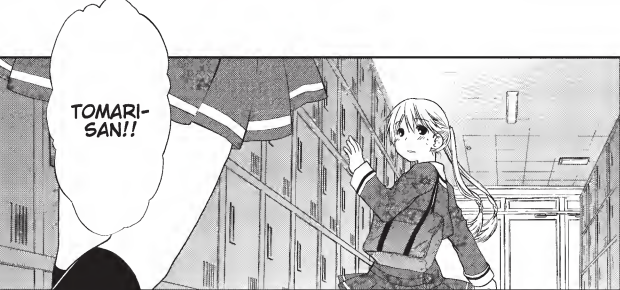
!!



STUPID
HAZUMI!!!

And you
got the
song
wrong
too!!

I know.
I know.
I know I walk
so slow! Did
you see the
hare? Oh, she
runs so fast!





I WASN'T
EVEN THE
TINIEST BIT
GLAD TO
RECEIVE IT
AT ALL.

I DON'T
WANT ANY
"GOODBYE"
PRESENTS
FROM HER.
I DON'T
NEED ANY.

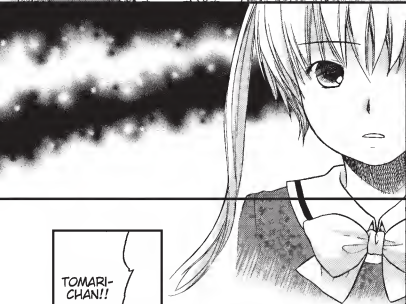
A SILLY LITTLE
PRESENT IS
MEANINGLESS
WITHOUT HER
HERE TO SHARE
IT WITH ME.

THERE ISN'T
ANYTHING IN THE
WHOLE WORLD
THAT COULD
EVER REPLACE
HAZUMU-KUN.

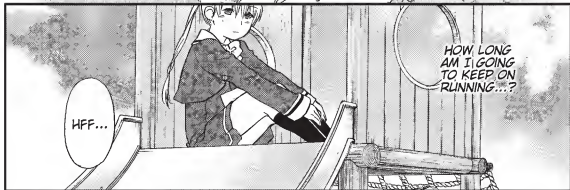
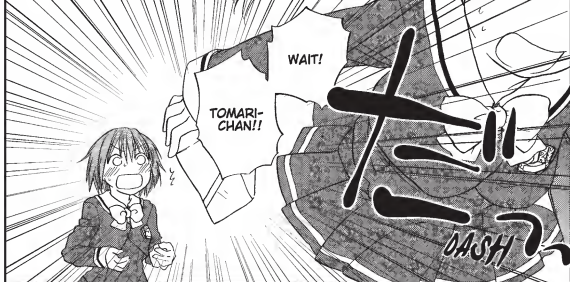
BUT...

THEN IT'S
NOT SILLY.
IT'S **VERY**
IMPORTANT.

IF HAZUMU-
KUN IS GOING
TO KEEP ON
LIVING...



I...







I'M
SORRY...



I SAID
I WAS
PROTECTING
YOU... BUT
THAT ISN'T
QUITE TRUE.



I JUST
WANTED
TO BE
WITH YOU.

HAZUMU
...



DAMMIT,
HAZUMU!
HOW AM I
SUPPOSED
TO PROTECT
YOU...

IF YOU
DON'T
NEED
ME?!



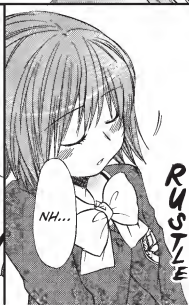
DON'T
LEAVE ME
BEHIND.

DON'T
GO.

DON'T
TRY TO
TAKE IT
ALL ON
YOURSELF.

TURN
BACK,
LOOK
AT ME.







.....
WAS
WAITING
FOR YOU
TO WAKE
UP...

OH...

MORNIN',
TOMARI-
CHAN.



MMMPH...?



IF I'VE DONE
SOMETHING
WRONG, TELL
ME WHAT IT
IS... PLEASE.

I JUST
WANTED
TO SAY
I'M
SORRY.



BECAUSE I
DON'T WANT
TO FIGHT
WITH YOU
ANYMORE.

I NEED TO
KNOW...

WAAAAH

TO...
TOMARI-
CHAN...?!

PLEASE...

STAY
WITH ME
ALWAYS...

STAY
WITH
ME...

**TOMARI-
CHAN!**

DON'T GO...

HAZUMU...



#27 Let's Play!





AWESOME!



WE CAN
PICK AND
EAT AS
MUCH AS
WE WANT!





I NOTICED
YOU SIGHED.
IS SOME-
THING THE
MATTER?



O-
OKAY...

UH?

COME ON,
TOMARI-SAN.
LET'S GO!



DOES IT
LOOK
THAT WAY
TO YOU?

THE GIRLS
JUST LOOK
LIKE THEY ARE
HAVING TONS
OF FUN BY
THEMSELVES
OVER THERE.

*Feels
lonely,
being
the
odd
man
out.*



IT'S
NOTHING...



YODEL
HI-HOO

fing

SENSEI...



HUMANS
DO RELY
ON VISION
FOR OVER
70% OF THEIR
SENSORY
INFORMATION,
AFTER ALL.

I GUESS
I SHOULD
NOT BE
SURPRISED.

HUH...?

IT DOES
SEEM THAT
HAZUMU HAS
ACCEPTED
THE REALITY
OF HER
WOMANHOOD,
AND TO LIVE
ACCORDING-
LY.

Oh,
that
body...!

HECK YEAH!
VISUALLY
SPEAKING,
HAZUMU IS
VERY, VERY
MUCH A
WOMAN!

HOWEVER,
THESE VARIOUS
SUBJECTIVE
VIEWPOINTS
ARE NOT AT
ISSUE HERE.

WHAT?!
NO
WAY!!

BUT RATHER
YOUR OWN
PERCEPTION OF
HER. MAYHAP
YOU LOOK AT
HER NOW "WITH
NEW EYES," SO
TO SPEAK.

PERHAPS
IT IS NOT
OSARAGI
HAZUMU
WHO HAS
CHANGED...

HAS
OSARAGI
HAZUMU
HERSELF
CHANGED
IN ANY
CONCRETE
MANNER?

THE
QUESTION IS
OBJECTIVE
TRUTH.



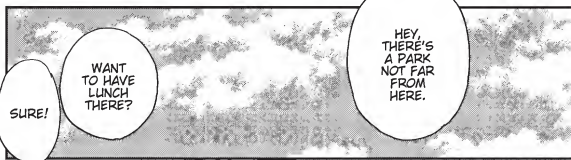
HAZUMU,
I'M SOOO
SORRY!!!

MAY THE
INSECURITIES
OF YOUTHFUL
ROMANCE CONTINUE TO MAKE
A PRODIGIOUS
FOOL OF YOU.



I'M
SUPPOSED
TO BE HER
BEST FRIEND!
CAN I TRULY
BE LOOKING
AT HER
THROUGH
ROSE
COLORED
GLASSES?!

OH MY
GOD, I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT!!



SURE!

WANT
TO HAVE
LUNCH
THERE?

HEY,
THERE'S
A PARK
NOT FAR
FROM
HERE.



"OHBA-
KO"?

OHBAKO!

OH,
LOOK!

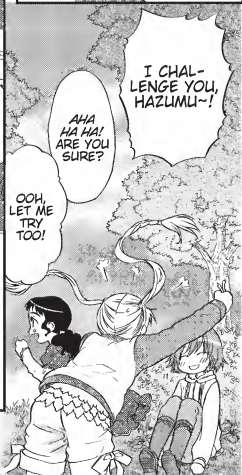
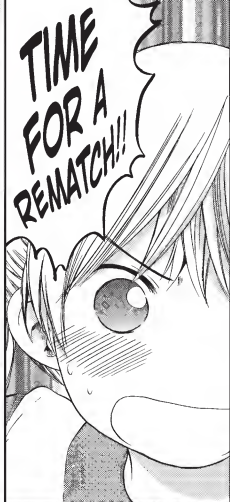
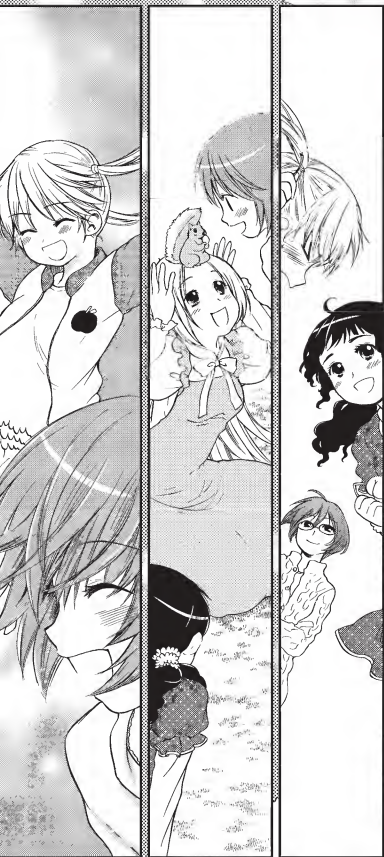


TOMARI-CHAN!



OHBAKO. A PERENNIAL HERB COMMON ACROSS JAPAN AND ASIA.





WHERE IS
HAZUMU-
KUN?

TOMARI-
SAN?

HM?

OH. SHE
WENT OFF
TO LOOK
FOR CHEST-
NUTS WITH
JAN-PUU-
CHAN.

AH,
I SEE.





YOU
KNOW...

I'M BUSHED.
BUT HAZUMU
LOOKS LIKE
SHE HASN'T
PLAYED
ENOUGH YET.



ME
TOO.

I THINK
I'LL TAKE
A BREAK
WHILE
THEY'RE
GONE.

I STILL...
HURT...
LOOKING
AT HER.

JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT
MAKES MY
CHEST
HURT.

I HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
ME, BUT...

BUT
I CAN'T
LOOK HER
STRAIGHT
IN THE EYE.
I JUST...
CAN'T.

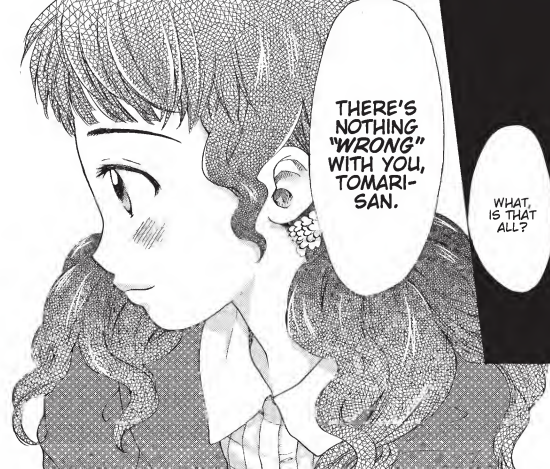
THAT'S NOT
TO SAY THAT
I'M NOT
HAVING FUN,
PLAYING WITH
HAZUMU
TODAY.

BUT I
CAN'T HELP
IT. IT'S
ALWAYS
IN THE
BACK OF
MY MIND.

I KNOW
WE'RE NOT
SUPPOSED
TO BE
THINKING
ABOUT...
THAT RIGHT
NOW.



YOU LOVE
HER. IT'S
PERFECTLY
NATURAL
FOR YOU
TO FEEL
LIKE YOU
DO.



THERE'S
NOTHING
"WRONG"
WITH YOU,
TOMARI-
SAN.

WHAT,
IS THAT
ALL?



IT'S
LIKE YOU
ALWAYS
KNOW
EXACTLY
THE RIGHT
THING
TO DO.

FIRST
THE WHOLE
THING WITH
THE PRESENT,
AND NOW
THIS...



OF COURSE
I KNOW.
WE'RE ALL
GIRLS.



I THOUGHT
THAT WAS
SOMETHING
ONLY AYUKI
COULD DO.

THERE'S
NO REASON
WHY I
WOULDN'T
KNOW.



YEAH.

IS
THIS WHY
YOU'VE
BEEN
OUT-OF-
SORTS?



.....

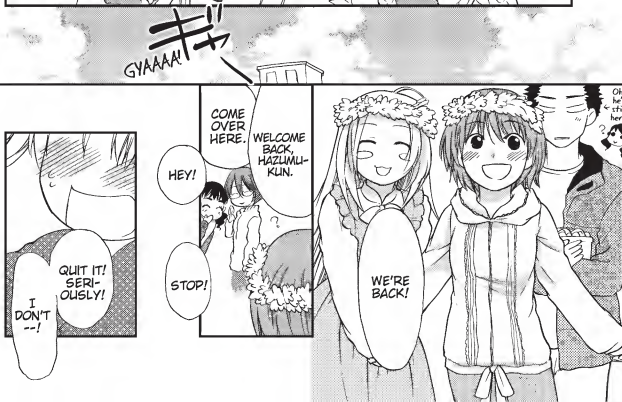
AH...



Y'KNOW,
UM...
YOU'RE
PRETTY
AWESOME.



WHA...?





GIFT FROM HAZUMU

Here!

OHO!
NOT BAD,
TOMARI!

THAT
LOOKS
GOOD
ON Y--

WHACK

TOMARI-
CHAN!

My
my--

BOP
BOP
RAAARRGHHH!

OW
OW
OW
OW!

YASUNA'S
DRESS

HER BRAIDS WERE
TAKEN OUT TOO.

I THINK
IT LOOKS
GREAT
ON YOU,
TOMARI-
CHAN!

ARE YOU SURE?
I BET IT WOULD LOOK QUITE GOOD ON YOU.

DO YOU WANT TO TRY IT ON, HAZUMI-KUN?

HM...? OH NO, THAT'S OKAY.

YEAH. I MEAN, MOM AND DAD ARE ALWAYS STUFFING ME INTO CLOTHES, ALL THE TIME. TRUTH BE TOLD, I'M KINDA TIRED OF IT...

RELIVING THE NIGHTMARE

OH MY...



SO WHY DON'T YOU HAVE YASUNA AND TOMARI JOIN YOU, THEN?

OF COURSE WE WANT TO!

YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO?!

DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO, TOMARI-SAN?

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A WONDERFUL IDEA!

It's exhausting! Trust me!!

BE-SIDES...

IT GIVES US A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR FATHER TAKE A PHOTO OF ALL THREE OF US!

NOW WE HAVE MORE DAUGHTERS!!

LOOK, DEAR!!

I'M SURE YOUR PARENTS WOULD JUST LOVE THE IDEA.

hee hee hee

WH-WHAT?! YOU CAN'T!!

NO! NO! NO!

AND THEN
WE CAN
MAKE CURRY
TOGETHER
AGAIN!

HAVE
OUR
PICTURE
TAKEN...

WE'LL ALL
WEAR
MATCHING
CLOTHES...

AND HAVE
ANOTHER
SLEEPOVER
TOO!

AND OUR
HOME-
WORK...

WE COULD
EVEN BRING
OUR PAJA-
MAS...

CAN
WE INVITE
AYUKI-CHAN
AND ASUTA
TOO?

YOU
REALLY
ARE MY
OLD BUD
HAZU-
MUUUI~!

HAZU-
MUUUI...

I'm so
sorry for
all I've
done...!

UM...
ASUTA?
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

HAZUMU-
KUN'S
FATHER
WILL
PROBABLY
KICK HIM
OUT.

WELL...

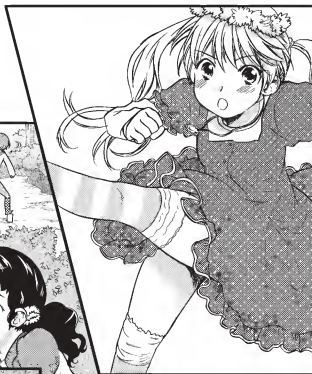
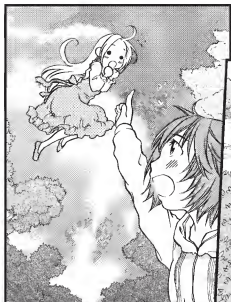
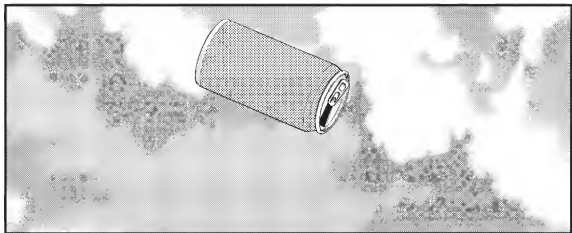
WHY
NOT?

Puuu
Sure!

Hmph.

IT'D
BE MORE
FUN WITH
EVERYONE
THERE!

Do we
have
to?



STILL
SIMPLY
OBSERVING,
I SEE.



I FIND
IT QUITE
FASCI-
NATING.

IT IS
AMPLIFIED
WHEN PEOPLE
HAVE STRONG
FEELINGS FOR
EACH OTHER.

ON THE
SURFACE, IT
SEEMS TO
BE SIMPLE,
PURPOSE-
LESS MOTION.
HOWEVER,
UPON CLOSER
EXAMINATION, IT
HAS A POWER-
FUL STRESS-
REDUCTION
EFFECT.

THIS
"PLAY"
BEHAVIOR
HAS ME
INTRIGUED.

OF
COURSE.

SHE IS
QUITE
STABLE.

SINCE HER
RETURN
FROM THE
MOUNTAIN,
SHE HAS
SHOWN NO
SIGNS OF
MENTAL OR
EMOTIONAL
TURMOIL.

MERRY.

AFTER
HAZUMU-
KUN...
FOUND OUT...
HOW HAS
SHE BEEN
AT HOME?

I shall
have to
experience
this
"play"...

AH, SO
"LOVE"
INFLUENCES
EVEN THIS.

AND BY
LEAVING A
STRONG
IMPRESSION IN
THE HEARTS
OF OTHERS.

HAH!

Ack!

PRESENTLY,
SHE WISHES
SIMPLY TO
PASS THE TIME
BY ENJOYING
HERSELF...

HER
MISGIVINGS
HAVE BEEN
COMPLETELY
DISCARDED.

HAS
HAZUMU-
KUN
SHOWN
ANY
SIGNS...

I BELIEVE
THAT TO BE
AT THE
ROOT OF
OSARAGI
HAZUMU'S
CURRENT
ACTIONS.



NO!

I HAVE BEEN ASKED NOT TO SAY ANYTHING TO ANY OTHER HUMAN...

I AM AFRAID I ACCIDENTALLY TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT REQUEST WENT INTO EFFECT.

DID YOU WISH NOT TO KNOW...?



IN PARTICULAR, TO TOMARI OR YASUNA?

OF WANTING TO SAY ANYTHING TO ANYONE?



NONE AT ALL.

NONE.



four... five...

one... two... three...

IF IT ENDED WITH EVERYTHING STILL BURIED IN SECRETS...

IF WE DIDN'T KNOW...



HAZUMI-KUN WOULD NOT BE LEAVING US THESE BEAUTIFUL, TREASURED MEMORIES.

IF WE ONLY LEARNED THE TRUTH AFTER HAZUMI-KUN WAS GONE...

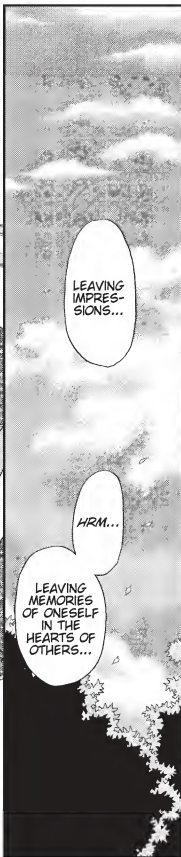
IT WOULD BE A TICKING TIME BOMB, JUST WAITING TO EXPLODE.



WE ARE
FORTUNATE
TO KNOW
AHEAD OF
TIME.



AND KNOWING
SEEMS TO HAVE
HAD OTHER,
UNFORESEEN
YET BENEFICIAL,
EFFECTS.



LEAVING
IMPRES-
SIONS...

HRM...

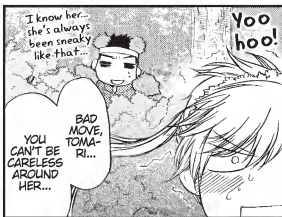
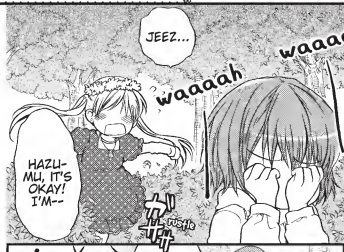
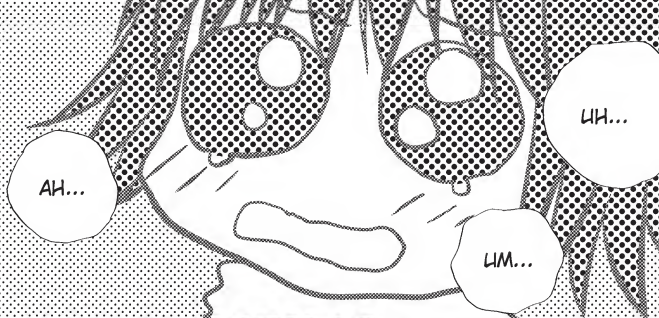
LEAVING
MEMORIES
OF ONESELF
IN THE
HEARTS OF
OTHERS...



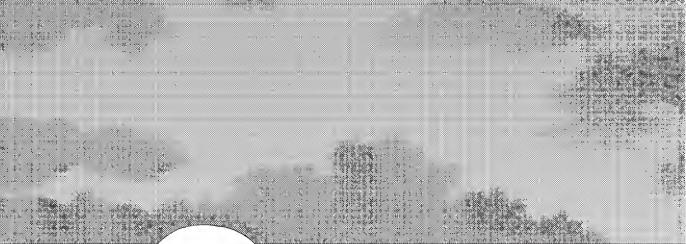
IT
WOULD
BE A
LARGE,
UGLY
SCAR.

WITHOUT THE
CHANCE TO SAY
GOODBYE TO HER,
NEITHER OF THEM
WOULD EVER GET
OVER IT, NOT FOR
THE REST OF THEIR
NATURAL LIVES.

HOWEVER, THE
WAY THINGS
ARE NOW,
HAZUMU-KUN'S
WISH SHOULD
BE EASILY
FULFILLED.







YOU CAN'T
JUST SIT
AROUND
AND PRAY.

IF YOU GIVE 'IN TO THE FEAR OF LOSING SOMETHING...



YOU
HAVE TO
WORK HARD
IN ORDER
TO PROTECT
WHAT YOU
LOVE.



*YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE
TO KEEP IT SAFE.*



THE
NORMAL,
EVERYDAY
WORLD
THAT YOU
THINK WILL
BE THERE
FOREVER...

IS AN
INCREDIBLY
FRAGILE THING.
IF YOU STOP
TRYING, IF YOU
EVER LET UP,
IT COMES
CRASHING
DOWN ALL
AROUND
YOU.



SENSEI!!
No cheating!!

Y'SEE...
I FINALLY
REALIZED
SOME-
THING.



REALLY,
REALLY
FUN.

THIS IS
FUN...

MEETING
YOU...

WAS
NOTHING
LESS
THAN A
MIRACLE.

**TOMARI-
CHAN!!**

COMIN'!

I WILL
PROTECT
YOU, NO
MATTER
WHAT.





I HOPE IT
DOESN'T
HURT...



I WONDER
WHAT IT'LL
FEEL LIKE
TO DIE...

TWO
WEEKS
LEFT,
HUH...



STRANGELY,
I'M NOT
AFRAID
ANYMORE.



NOW I CAN
SAY A QUIET
AND PEACEFUL
GOODBYE TO
EVERYONE
WHEN THE
TIME COMES...



#28 The Two
Sides of Farewell



WHAT?

WE'VE
HEARD
BACK FROM
NEW YORK.

#28 The Two Sides of Farewell



THANK YOU,
BUT DON'T BE
SAD, OKAY?
I NEED YOU
GUYS TO BE
HAPPY.

ARE YOU
SAD THAT
I HAVE TO
GO AWAY
SOON?



I
KNOW!



HMM...

YOU GUYS
AREN'T
LOOKING
SO HOT.

WHAT'S
GOTTEN INTO
YOU...?



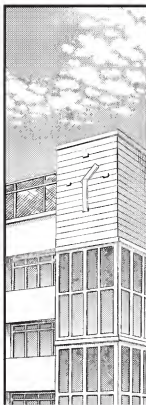
THAT WAS
GREAT,
YASUNA-
CHAN!!

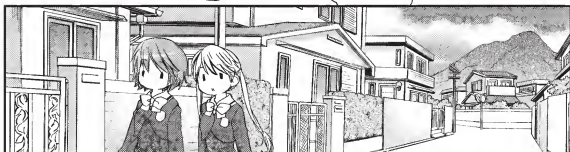
YEAH, THAT
WAS AWE-
SOME! YOU
SERIOUSLY
SOUND LIKE
A PRO!

YES,
YOU
DO.

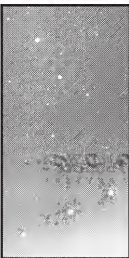
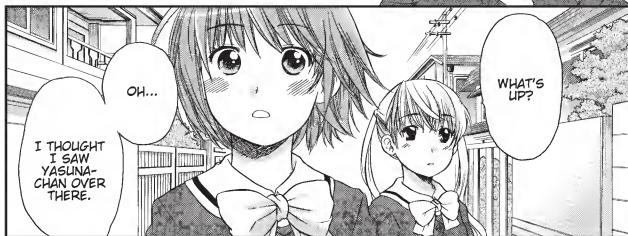
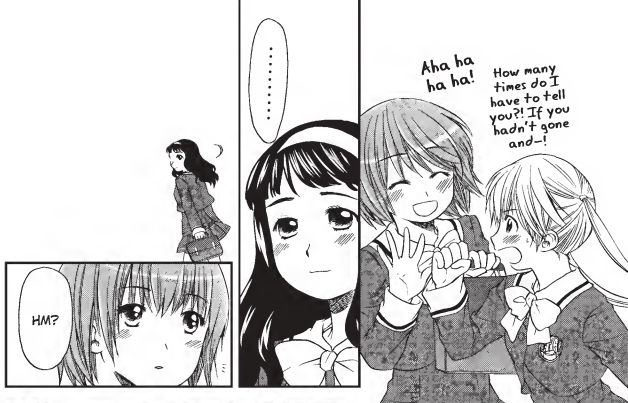
THANK
YOU.

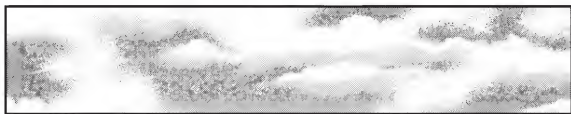
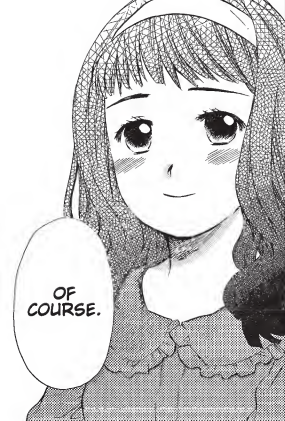
YOUR FLUTE
ALWAYS
SOUNDS SO
BEAUTIFUL!
I LOVED IT!













**SHE'S GOING TO
STUDY ABROAD...
AT A MUSICAL
CONSERVATORY IN
NEW YORK!!**

**I
CAN'T
BE-
LIEVE
YOU
DON'T
KNOW!**

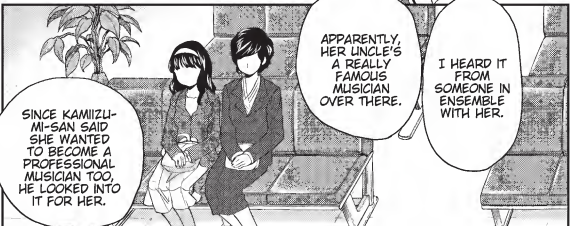
**YOU
MUST
HAVE
HEARD,
RIGHT?**

HUH?

**HEARD
WHAT...?**

**ABOUT
KAMI-
IZUMI-
SAN!!**

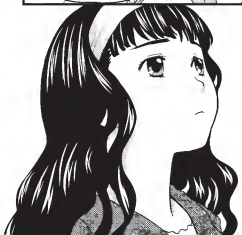
OH...



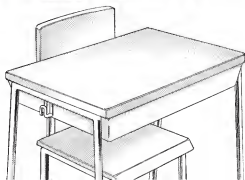
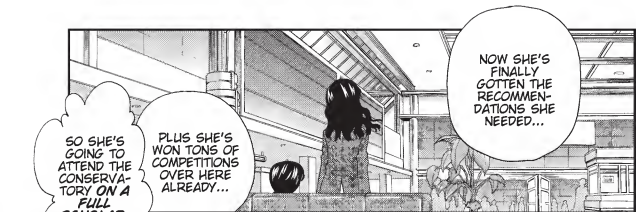
**SINCE KAMIIZU-
MI-SAN SAID
SHE WANTED
TO BECOME A
PROFESSIONAL
MUSICIAN TOO,
HE LOOKED INTO
IT FOR HER.**

**APPARENTLY,
HER UNCLE'S
A REALLY
FAMOUS
MUSICIAN
OVER THERE.**

**I HEARD IT
FROM
SOMEONE IN
ENSEMBLE
WITH HER.**



**SHE'S
WANTED TO
GET INTO THAT
CONSERVATORY
FOR AGES,
I HEAR.**



HER DREAM
IS GOING TO
COME TRUE,
BUT SHE'S
GONNA GO
AWAY...

IT'S
SIXTH
PERIOD,
AND SHE
STILL
ISN'T
HERE...

YASUNA-
CHAN IS
GOING TO
GO STUDY
ABROAD.



BEFORE
MY FINAL
GOODBYE.



SHE SAID
"SEE YOU
TOMOR-
ROW."

SHE'S
GOING TO
LEAVE...

SO HOW
COULD
SHE...?

WOULD BE
LIKE THIS.

I WONDER
WHAT SHE
FELT, MAKING
THAT
DECISION.



I NEVER
THOUGHT
OUR FINAL
PARTING...

YASUNA-
CHAN...



MY, MY, MY!
KAMIIZUMI-SAN!
I HAD WORD FROM
YOUR WONDERFUL
PARENTS THAT YOU
WOULDN'T BE AT-
TENDING TODAY. YOU
DIDN'T HAVE TO
FORCE YOUR POOR
SELF TO COME!

EXCUSE
ME! I'M
SORRY I'M
LATE!

No,
no.

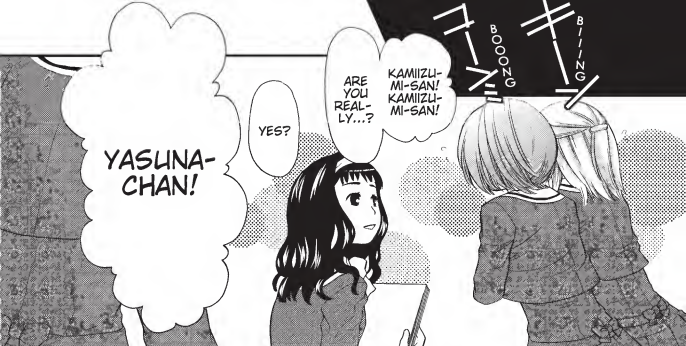
IT'S OKAY,
SENSEI. I
JUST HAD
AN ERRAND
TO RUN...

AND I
WANTED TO
BE HERE
TODAY IF I
COULD.

ALL RIGHT,
MY LOVELY,
PRECIOUS
STUDENTS!
CONTINUING
ON....!!

OH, WELL
THEN. YOU
MAY TAKE
YOUR SEAT.

SMILE





GOOD
THING I
REMEM-
BERED
MINE,
HUH?

I FORGOT
MY UM-
BRELLA,
SO WITH-
OUT YOU,
I'D BE
DRENCHED
RIGHT
NOW!

IT'S
NO PRO-
BLEM.

THANK
YOU FOR
SEEING
ME ALL
THE WAY
HOME.

Eh heh
heh...



YASUNA-
CHAN...
AREN'T YOU
GOING TO
TELL ME
ANYTHING?



YES?!

OH YES...
HAZUMI-
KUN?

YASUNA-
CHAN...

IS THAT
WHY YOU
WERE SO
LATE TO
CLASS
TODAY?

IS IT TRUE
YOU'RE
GOING TO
GO AWAY
AND STUDY
ABROAD?



THAT'LL
BE MY
FINAL
PRESENT
TO THEM.

I
GUESS...



ER...
WELL...
YEAH...
SORTA...

I DECIDED TO
KNIT SOME-
THING FOR
EVERYONE!
I MEAN, WHY
STOP WITH
ONLY YASUNA?



ARE YOU
STILL WORK-
ING ON YOUR
KNITTING?

BUT I WANT TO
HEAR ABOUT IT
FROM HER.
EVEN IF IT'S
JUST ONE
WORD...



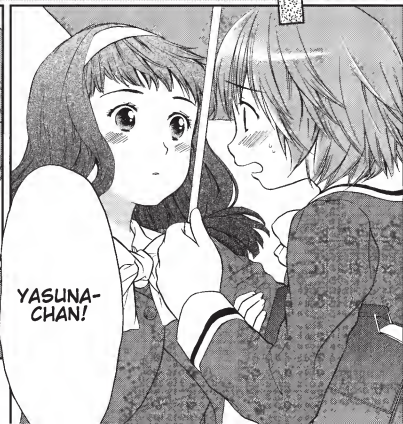
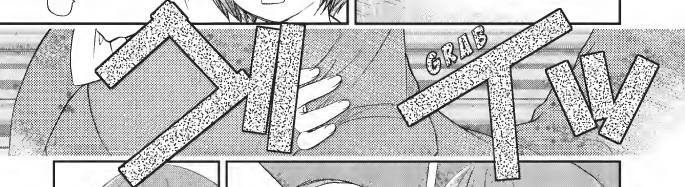
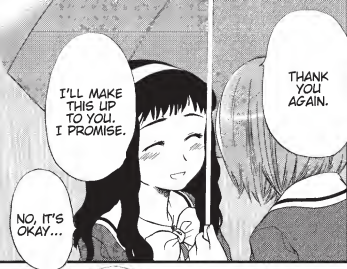
I WANT TO
SUPPORT
YASUNA-
CHAN'S
DREAM...



HAZUMU-
KUN!

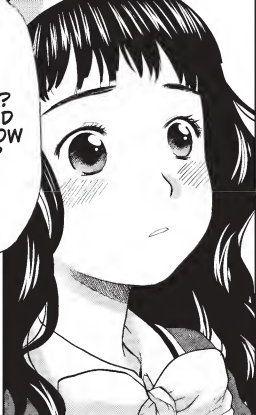
IF SHE
JUST...
GOES...

ALL BY
HERSELF...
WITHOUT
SAYING
ANYTHING,
THAT'D--





WHA...?
HOW DID
YOU KNOW
THAT?



I...
COULDN'T
HELP BUT
OVER-
HEAR IT.
SORRY.

IT'S A
RUMOR,
ALL OVER
SCHOOL...

IT...
AH...

ER...



THAT IF YOU
GO, YOU'D
BE FINALLY
LIVING YOUR
DREAM.

IS
THAT...?

AND YOU
COULD
DO THAT
OVER
THERE.

THEY SAID IT
WAS YOUR
DREAM. THAT
YOU'D ALWAYS
WANTED TO
STUDY MUSIC
FULL TIME...



OH...
I SEE...



I ASKED HIM
TO PUT IN AN
APPLICATION
FOR ME QUITE
SOME TIME
AGO.

MY UNCLE
IS A PRO-
FESSIONAL
MUSICIAN,
YOU SEE.

THE
ACCEPTANCE
LETTER
FINALLY ARRIVED
JUST THE
OTHER DAY...



I'VE
WANTED TO
GO FOR A
VERY,
VERY LONG
TIME...

YES...



I'VE TOLD
THEM "NO."



SO I HAD
THE CHANCE
TO DECLINE
THE OFFER
FORMALLY.



MY UNCLE
CAME TO
VISIT FROM
NEW YORK
TODAY...

MUSIC
WAS MY
ONLY
LOVE.



WITH A
FATHER
I CAN'T
REALLY
SEE, AND
A MOTHER
WHO CON-
STANTLY
WORRIES.



AND I
WANTED
TO GET
AWAY
FROM
MY HOME
LIFE...



I'D
GOTTEN
TIRED OF
HIGH
SCHOOL
LIFE
HERE...



I WAS
STILL
ALONE,
WHEN I
FIRST
ASKED
TO HAVE
THAT
APPLICA-
TION
SENT IN.

I'VE ONLY
COME TO
UNDERSTAND
WHY JUST
RECENTLY.



MY FIRST
APPLICATION
GOT TURNED
DOWN, BACK
THEN.

BUT
WHY...?

YOU...
SAID
NO?



WHEN I
DESPERATELY
WANTED TO GO,
THEY WOULDN'T
TAKE ME. BUT
NOW THAT I
DON'T WANT TO
GO, THEY INVITE
ME OVER.

IRONIC,
ISN'T
IT?

OH, THAT'S
EASY.
BECAUSE
YOU'RE NOT
OVER THERE,
HAZUMI-
KUN. YOU'RE
HERE.

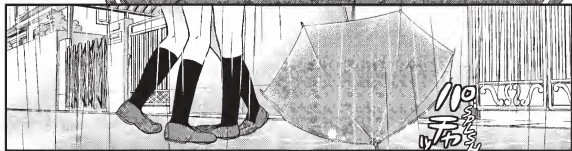


I...

I'M SURE
OF IT.

I'LL FIND
ANOTHER
WAY TO
MAKE MY
DREAM
COME TRUE.

IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.



I WAS SO
SELFISH.

HAZUMU-
KUN...?

I FELT LIKE
I WAS THE
ONLY ONE
WHO WAS
HURT.

AND I
STARTED
TO WALLOW
IN MY
OWN PITY
FOR POOR
LIL' ME.

HAVING
SOMEONE SO
IMPORTANT TO
ME LEAVING
FOREVER
WITHOUT EVEN
TELLING ME...
IT STUNG...

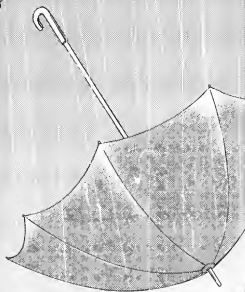
I'M NOT
GOING
ANY-
WHERE.

IT'S
ALL
RIGHT...

YOU
WERE
WORRIED
FOR ME,
WEREN'T
YOU...?

**BUT
PARTING...**

**IS
NEVER
SOME-
THING
THAT
BELONGS
TO ONE
PERSON
ALONE.**



HELLO, EVERYONE!
WHY DON'T YOU GO
AHEAD AND SWITCH THE
GEARS IN YOUR HEAD
BEFORE READING THE
REST, OKAY? ♡

JUST
A LITTLE
BIT OF
FRIENDLY
ADVICE
FROM ME.

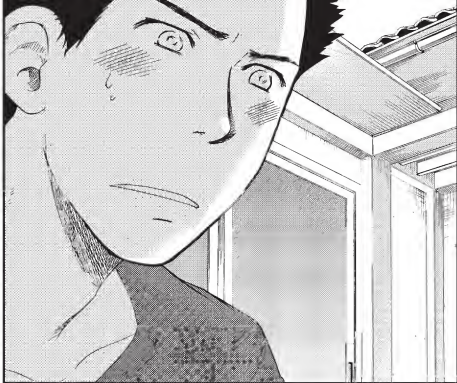


Special #4

The Asuta Show!



For Asuta:
Part 1



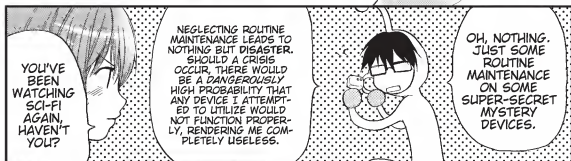
OH,
THANK
GOOD-
NESS...



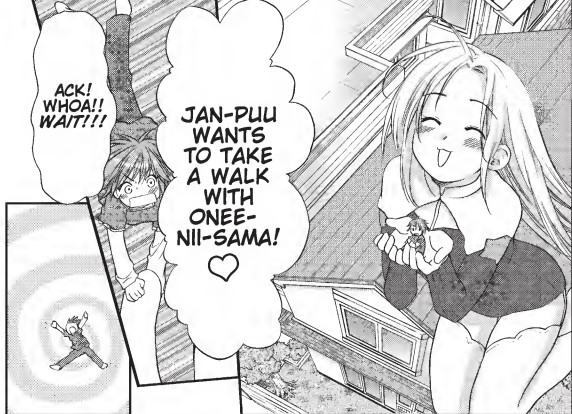
WHAT
THE
HELL
?!!

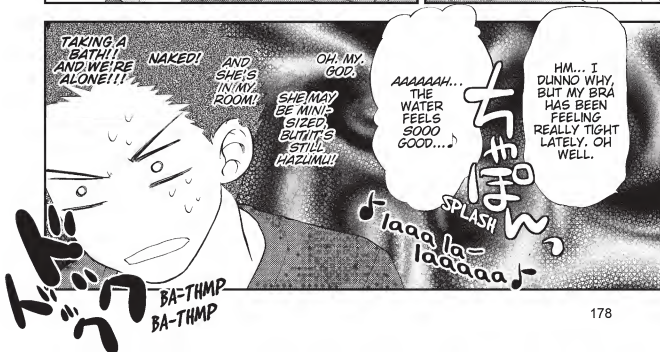
ASUTA-
KUN'S
LOVER

ASUTA-
KUN'S
LOVER









TOO
BAD YOU
DIDN'T GET
SHRINK
TOO, ASUTA.
THEN YOU
COULD
JOIN ME.

Y'KNOW,
TAKING A
BATH IN A
MUG IS
ACTUALLY
KINDA FUN.

AH!

NO! WAIT,
WAIT, WAIT!!
WHAT THE
HELL AM I
THINKING?!

THIS IS HAZUMU
WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT HERE!

HAZUMU'S MY
BEST BUD!!

I SOOO
WANT TO
LOOK...
BUT... BUT
I CAN'T!

OUR
FRIENDSHIP...
GOTTA...
PROTECT...

Arrrrgh!

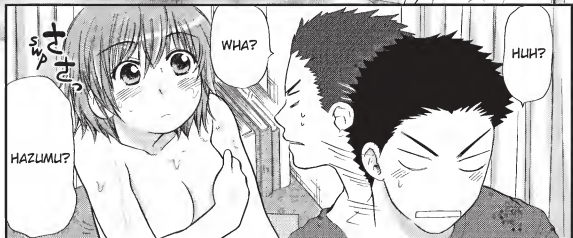
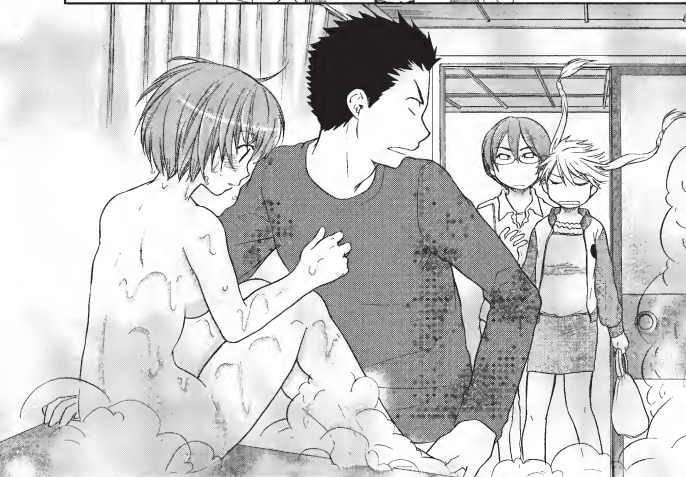
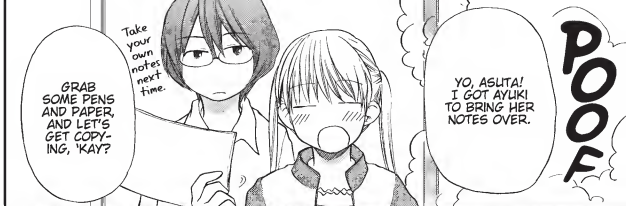
Oh, hey. Could
you get some
soap for me,
please?

WHAT A
GOOD IDEA!
LET'S TAKE
A BATH
TOGETHER,
HAZUMU~!

OOOOH,
YEAH, I
COULD,
COULDN'T
I? ♪

TIME'S
UP.

HN.





ASUTA...

THE END ☆

For Asuta:
Part 2

PARALLEL
WORLDS!

YES. IT HAS BEEN
THEORIZED THAT
MULTIPLE WORLDS
ONLY SLIGHTLY
DIFFERENT FROM
OUR OWN MAY
POSSIBLY EXIST.

PARALLEL
WORLDS...?

GIVEN
RECENT
ADVANCES
IN QUANTUM
THEORY,
THE IDEA OF
PARALLEL
WORLDS IS
GAINING
CREDESCENCE.

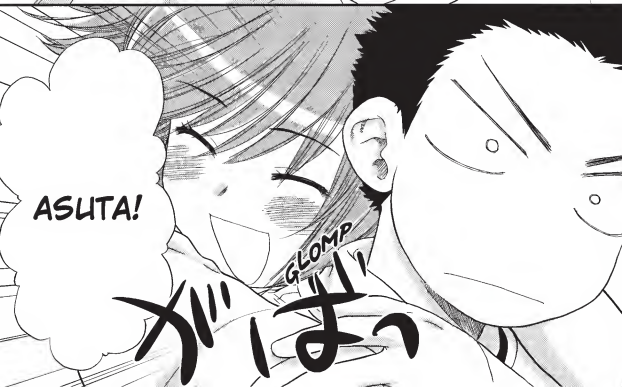
WHO KNOWS?
PERHAPS IN
ONE OF THEM,
YOU MIGHT
HAVE EVEN
MANAGED
TO HAVE
HAZUMI-KUN
AS A LOVER.

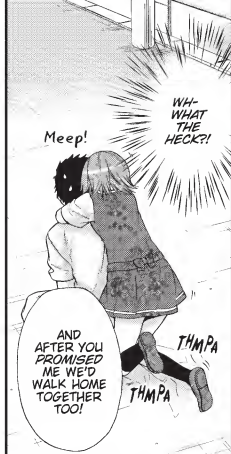
HEH

DOZENS OF
WORLDS
JUST A
LITTLE BIT
DIFFERENT
FROM OUR
OWN.
HUH...?

L-L-
LOVERS
...?!

WHAT?!
ME AND
HAZUMI...





Meep!

WH-
WHAT
THE
HECK?!

AND
AFTER YOU
PROMISED
ME WE'D
WALK HOME
TOGETHER
TOO!

THMPA

THMPA

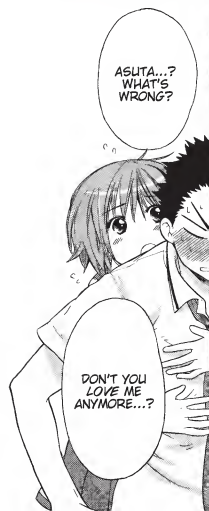


HERE YOU ARE!
HOW COULD
YOU GO AND
LEAVE ME
BEHIND LIKE
THAT? *MEANIE!*

nyaaaaa

BMF

?!
.....
.....
.....



ASUTA...?
WHAT'S
WRONG?

DON'T YOU
LOVE ME
ANYMORE...?



GIRL-
FRIEND?!

Yipes!

OH MY GOD!
COULD THIS BE
ONE OF THOSE...
THOSE "PARALLEL
WORLDS" AYUKI
WAS TALKING
ABOUT?!



Geez!

YOU CAN'T
JUST LEAVE
YOUR GIRL-
FRIEND
ALONE LIKE
THAT! IT'S
NOT NICE!

oh god,
oh god!



MY?!

SHIVER



OH MY GOSH!

Yo

ASUTA!

I'M SO SORRY!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE!

Hee
hee
hee

Aha
ha
ha

HM...

DO WE REALLY LOOK THAT DIFFERENT...?

WAS THAT THIS WORLD'S ME...?

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GET HOME?

HA HA HA! NOW THAT WAS SILLY OF YOU, HAZUMI!

EHEH...

hee hee

OH, ASUTA!
I ACCIDENTALLY
HUGGED
A TOTAL
STRANGER!
I THOUGHT HE
WAS YOU!!

I'm so
embarrassed!

THE END☆

For Asuta:
Part 3



A NEW LOVE

**SHE'S
BOTH!!!**

**BOTH ARE SO
BEAUTIFUL!!**

EH...?
OH! AH,
RIGHT.

IN THIS CASE,
THE PHRASE
"DOTCHI MO"
TRANSLATES
TO THE ENGLISH
WORD
"BOTH!"

YES!
CORRECT!

HAZUMU IS
MY BEST FRIEND.
RIGHT? HOW CAN
IT BE OKAY TO
HAVE ALL THESE
DIRTY, PERVY
THOUGHTS
ABOUT YOUR
BEST
FRIEND?!

WHOA,
HOLD IT!
HANG
ON, ME!
THINK
FOR
ONCE!!

CAN'T LET
MYSELF GET
TOO CARRIED
AWAY THINK-
ING ABOUT
HAZUMU...
AAAAH,
HAZUMU!!

CRAP!
GOTTA BE
CAREFUL!

**A
LOVER?!!**

I'VE
GOTTA
STOP
THINKING
ABOUT
HAZLIMU
LIKE...
LIKE
THAT!!

WE'RE
BOUND BY
THE TIES OF
FRIENDSHIP!
A FRIEND-
SHIP MORE
PURE AND
HONORABLE
THAN SIMPLE
LOVE!

BUT...
HOW
CAN I
KEEP
MY
MIND
OFF
OF...

Aaah

THAT'S IT!
A NEW
LOVER!

TO CHANGE
"KOI" TO "KOI-
BITO" IN
ENGLISH, YOU
SIMPLY ADD AN
"R" TO "LOVE"
FORMING THE
WORD "LOVER"!

YES!
CORRECT
AGAIN!

SHE
SHOULD
HAVE A
PRETTY
SMILE...
AND SHE
SHOULD
LOOK
REALLY
HOT WITH
SHORT
HAIR.

JUST
TALKING
TO HER
SHOULD
BE FUN.

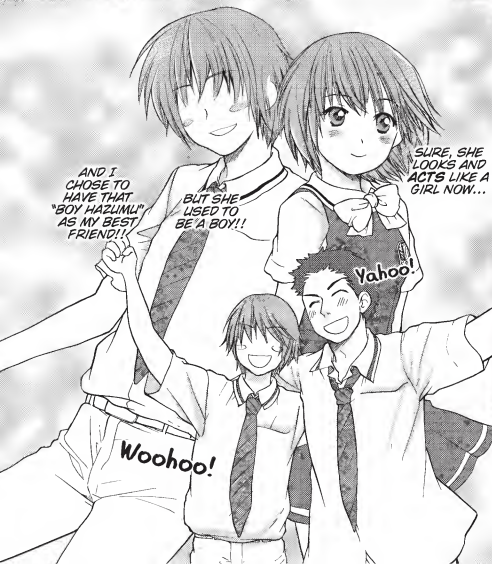
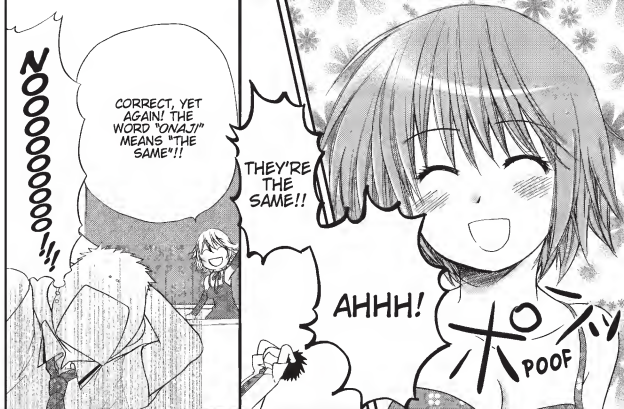
AND SHE
SHOULD
BE ABOUT
A HEAD
SHORTER
THAN ME.

A CUTE
LITTLE
BUTTON
NOSE...

LET'S SEE, MY
IDEA OF A PER-
FECT GIRL HAS
A PRETTY,
ROUND FACE...
BRIGHT EYES
THAT SPARKLE...

I JUST
NEED TO
FIND MY
PERFECT
GIRL,
THAT'S
ALL!





HAZUMI IS MY BEST FRIEND!! I'M NOT GOING TO THINK ABOUT HER LIKE THAT ANYMORE!! I SWORE I WOULDN'T!!

I'M LOOK-ING FOR A NEW LOVER!!

LUCKY MIKE!
IT SEEMS
HE HAS
FOUND HIS
PERFECT
MATCH IN
JANE! OH,
I'M SO
JEALOUS!!

TODAY'S
LESSON
WAS
ABOUT
MIKE'S
FIRST LOVE.

ALL RIGHT,
ALL MY
PRECIOUS
STUDENTS!!

YES... I
LIKE BOY-
HAZUMU.
THE BOY
SIDE IS
SAFER,
BETTER...



AND I...
I BECAME
FRIENDS
WITH BOY-
HAZUMU!!
AND I
LIKE BOY-
HAZUMU AS
MY BEST
FRIEND,
NOTHING
MORE!

HAZUMU
IS A
BOY!

I...

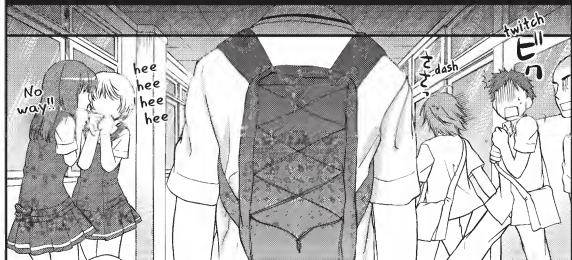
ASUTA-KUN!
YOU'VE BEEN
ON A ROLL
TODAY!
WHAT DO
YOU LIKE?

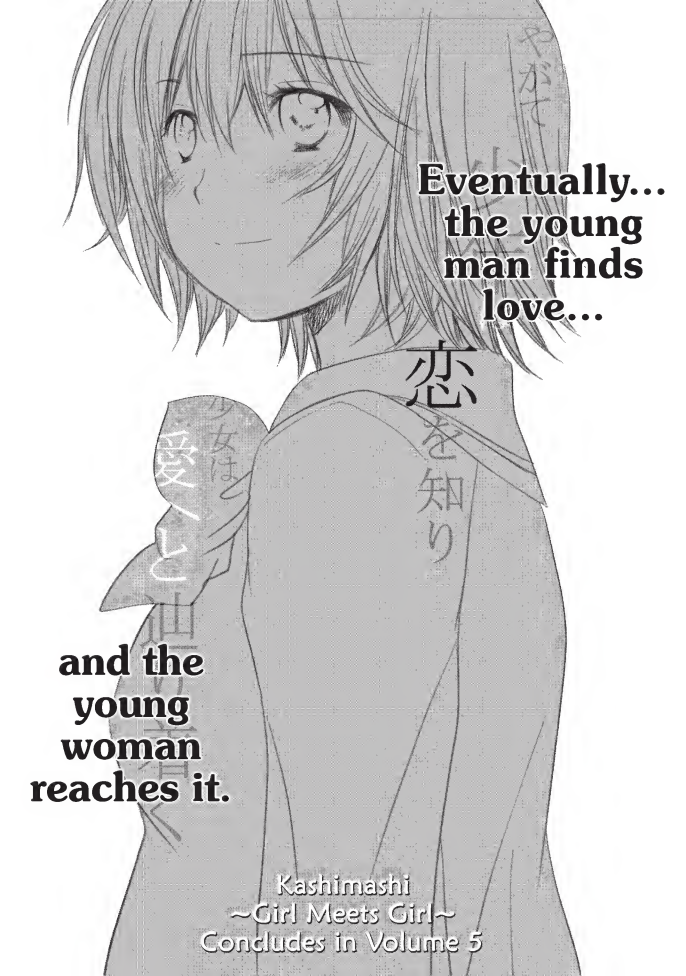
WHAT KIND
OF THINGS
DO YOU ALL
WANT IN A
PERFECT
MATCH?

JANE HAD
EVERYTHING
MIKE WANTED
IN A GIRL-
FRIEND.
ISN'T THAT
WONDERFUL?

I LIKE
BOYS
BETTER
!!!!!!!







**Eventually...
the young
man finds
love...**

**and the
young
woman
reaches it.**

Kashimashi
~Girl Meets Girl~
Concludes in Volume 5



JAPANESE HONORIFICS GUIDE

To ensure that all character relationships appear as they were originally intended, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second. For copyright reasons, creator names appear in standard English name order.

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person’s status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books:

-san – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

-sama – This suffix is one level higher than “-san” and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

-dono – Stemming from the word “tono,” meaning “lord,” “-dono” signifies an even higher level than “-sama,” and confers the utmost respect.

-kun – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys’ names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

-chan – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

Sempai – This title is used towards one’s senior or “superior” in a particular group or organization. “Sempai” is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as “sempai,” though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

Kouhai – This is the exact opposite of “sempai,” and is used to refer to underclassmen in school, junior employees at the workplace, etc.

Sensei – Literally meaning “one who has come before,” this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.





Oniisan – This title literally means “big brother.” First and foremost, it is used by younger siblings towards older male siblings. It can be used by itself or attached to a person’s name as a suffix (-niisan). It is often used by a younger person toward an older person unrelated by blood, but as a sign of respect. Other forms include the informal “oniichan” and the more respectful “oniisama.”

Oneesan – This title is the opposite of “Oniisan” and means “big sister.” Other forms include the informal “oneechan” and the more respectful “oneesama.”

TRANSLATION NOTES

■ Page 21, Panel 2

The *jian* is a mythological Chinese bird that has only one eye and one wing. Two of these birds fuse together to become one whole bird. If one half should die, the other dies soon afterwards. They’re considered to symbolize the bond between husband and wife in marriage.

■ Page 77, Panel 1

A *kanmi kissa* is a coffee shop set up in the style of the Taisho Era (1912-1926). The staff dresses in Japanese clothing appropriate to that era, and they serve primarily light sweets and desserts.

■ Page 78, Panel 3

“*Awazenzai*” is a dessert made of millet cakes covered in sweet bean paste.

■ Page 81, Panel 5

Hotaka Mountain, one of the three best known peaks in Japan, is part of the Japanese Alps in the middle of the main island of Honshu. Hotaka Mountain itself is located in the Chubu Sangaku National Park, in Nagano Prefecture. Most of the friendly hiking trails lay around the base of Hotaka Mountain, in Kamikochi. Climbing the peak itself is generally reserved for experienced climbers.

■ Page 143, Panel 3

Muscat grapes are sweet, golden grapes that can be eaten off the vine, or made into raisins or wine. *Kyoho grapes* are one of the most commonly found grapes in Japan. Dark purple in color, they’re popular for their huge size and sweet taste. They have seeds, and their skin is thicker than normal, so they are generally not eaten raw.

■ Page 127, Panel 5

“*Ohbako*” is called “plantain” in English. It is a very common weed found around the world in meadows and alongside roads. The Latin name for this plant is *plantago asiatica*.

■ Page 143, Panel 6

“*Jan ken pon*” is what the Japanese say at the beginning of the game “Rock, Paper, Scissors.”





Kashimashi

~Girl Meets Girl~

VOLUME 4

story by Satoru Akahori art by Yukimaru Katsura
original character design Sukune Inugami

STAFF CREDITS

translation **Adrienne Beck**
adaptation **Janet Houck**
lettering **Aristotle Licuanan**
retouch **Cheese**
design & layout **Nicky Lim**
copy editor **J. W. Coffey**
assistant editor **Bambi Eloriaga-Amago**
editor **Adam Arnold**

publisher **Seven Seas Entertainment**

Kashimashi ~Girl Meets Girl~ Vol. 4
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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2



THE END

YOU'RE READING THE WRONG WAY

This is the last page of
Kashimashi Volume 4.



This book reads from right to left, Japanese style. To read from the beginning, flip the book over to the other side, start with the top right panel, and take it from there.

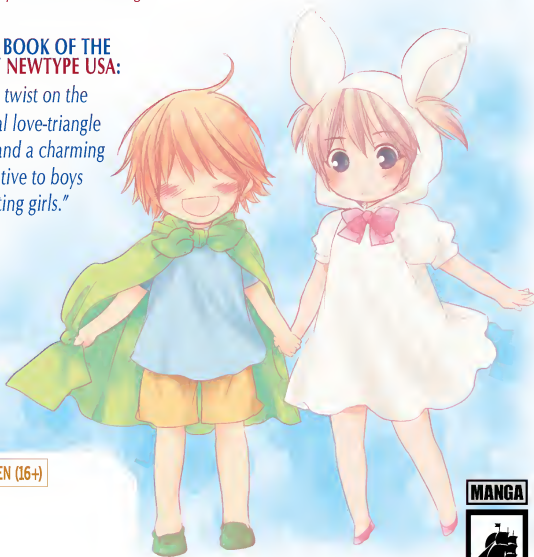
If this is your first time reading manga, just follow the diagram. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get used to it! Have fun!

How am I supposed to protect you... if you don't need me?!

Thanks to a freak accident with an alien space ship, Hazumu has had to get used to living life as a girl instead of a boy. Not only that, her relationship with childhood friend Tomari and first love Yasuna has somehow developed into the delicately balanced seesaw of a love triangle. But now a wrench has been thrown into the works—the alien that caused this mess has just informed Hazumu that she only has 30 days left to live. And only by merging her fate with that of another does Hazumu stand any chance of surviving!

SELECTED BOOK OF THE MONTH BY NEWTYPE USA:

*"A neat twist on the
traditional love-triangle
formula, and a charming
alternative to boys
meeting girls."*



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